

HISTORY OF SOUTH DAKOTA LIBRARIES

ALCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Alcester, South Dakota
Winifred G. Eaton, Librarian

The Alcester Public Library was opened on March 10, 1934, twenty-seven years ago, in a small room on the second floor of the City Hall.

One of the main enthusiasts in getting the project started, and in collecting books was Mrs. Boyd Wales whose zeal helped to open the library with a very extensive assortment of about 1500 volumes donated by individuals through the various churches and when the local camp disbanded. The Andrew Hyden Library also was added to the public library after his death.

Since then many books have been donated and the rest have been purchased by the Library Board.

The first library board consisted of D. G. Vallin, Mrs. L. E. Gerber, Dr. E. I. Conner, Mrs E. F. McKellips and Mrs Fred Anderson.

Miss Irene Bly was the first librarian, followed by Mrs V. T. Hanlon from 1942-45, and by Mrs. Winifred Eaton, the present librarian.

A one-mill tax levy is used for the support of the library, the facilities of which are free to all city residents. Family card are issued to non-residents at fifty cents a year. The library is open Wednesday and Saturday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00 and evenings 7:00 to 9:00.

The need for a larger library was long dreamed of and, in 1954, the library was moved from the City Hall to the New Veteran's Memorial Auditorium. The library has expanded considerably since moving. We have, at the present time, 2,580 volumes and subscriptions to ten magazines and the newest addition is a set of 1961 Compton's Encyclopedia, which was presented by the Lions Club.

ALEXANDRIA CITY LIBRARY

Alexandria, South Dakota
Mrs. Evelyn Dietzel, Librarian

The Alexandria City Library was organized in the early nineteen hundreds.

The Library was first located in the Briggs Building nearly a half-block from Main Street.

A group of women started the Library and, for the first years, the women of the town took turns working in the Library which they kept open two days a week.

Public suppers were held and book showers were given to raise money to buy books. Membership subscriptions were sold to the public at one dollar a year.

No books or records were kept during those early years. As time went by, it became more difficult for the women to care for the Library, so the city accepted the responsibility. A Library Board was appointed and they operated on a budget. At this time the first Librarian was hired.

In the year 1942, the State Librarian came to Alexandria and, with the City Librarian and the Board members, catalogued and classified the books. Later, the Library was certified by the South Dakota Library Commission.

A filing system was completed and then we had a card catalog of authors and titles. This standard system is used in the Library now.

Mrs. Hattie Yates served as Librarian for fourteen years, a record time for any of our Librarians.

The Library is now housed in one room of the City Hall. This is located one block from Main Street.

The Library is open three nights and two afternoons-a total of ten hours a week. The circulation for March of 1961 totaled three hundred seventy-seven.

The present Board members are Mrs. C. S. Maytum, Chairman; Mrs. Frank Vincent, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. Ray O'Byrne, Miss Nettie Ryan, and Mrs. Gilbert Loomer, Trustees, Mrs. Evelyn Dietzel is Librarian.

ARMOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Armour, South Dakota
Arleen Goehring, Librarian

Although funds had been raised by a mill levy beginning in 1899, the first public Library and Reading Room in Armour was opened in January of 1902 in the building on North Main, which is now Mrs. Anna Beckman's home.

From February 1 to April 25, 1902, 224 persons borrowed 1240 books from the infant library. Hours were every week day evening from 8 to 10 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 2-5 p.m.

The library contained 387 volumes, daily newspapers, and several magazines. There was no official librarian, so several interested persons donated their services.

Ladies of the library sold hot chicken pies, bread, and sponsored dances, but it was impossible to keep the library on a sound financial basis. It was later moved to the rear of H. J. Crutchett's drug store.

In 1914, Mrs. E. P. Wanzer was chairman of the Library Board with W. J. Barloon and Eli Thomas as board members.

On March 6, 1914, a letter was read at the board meeting from Mr. Andrew Carnegie. He had agreed to donate \$7,500 for the erection of a library in Armour. Lots for the library cost \$850 and the Library Board paid \$255, with the City of Armour donating the balance.

Wm. Steele, Sioux City, was the architect and Albert Frieberg, contractor from Lake Andes, South Dakota, agreed to construct the building for \$7,285, complete.

The new building was officially dedicated and opened June 25, 1915. Mrs. Minnie Raben was appointed the first librarian June 12, 1915. She received a salary of \$30 per month. Her assistant was Miss Margaret Mead. The first janitor, Mr. Roy Raben, received \$10 per month.

George Hagen and Mrs. Ira Burnett were appointed to the Library Board in 1915, as board membership needed to be five.

The basement room of the library became a workhouse for the Red Cross projects during World War I. Women gathered to knit, roll bandages, and help with other projects.

Mrs. Wanzer served on the library board from 1913 until her death in 1931. She willed the library a \$500 bond and interest from it is used to purchase books.

Mrs. Bert Catherman was appointed librarian in February, 1961, after the death of Mrs. G. E. Hagen, who served from 1953 to 1961.

Members of the 1961 Library Board are Mrs. Annette Polkinghorn, chairman; Mike Carmody, Mrs. E. C. Green, Mrs. Lloyd Tranter and Mrs. Maynard Goehring.

ALEXANDER MITCHELL LIBRARY

Aberdeen, South Dakota
Miss Helen Glau, Librarian

The Aberdeen public library has in its South Dakota Room, a framed document, which is of special interest this year of the Territorial Centennial. This certificate shows that on March 13, 1884, the Aberdeen Free Library Association was incorporated under the territorial laws. The subscription library was maintained by selling memberships at 25c a month or \$1.50 a year. Additional money was raised in various ways. The sponsoring of lectures was popular. One benefit lecture was by Nellie E. Lee, a well-known speaker. Her subject was "Domestic Infelicities; or, Facts and Fancies."

Aberdeen's first citizens remember the library as two rooms on the second floor of the Hagerty block. As the telephone exchange was housed in the same building, the telephone operator was often the person in charge of the books. Until 1914, it was customary for a board member to hold the title of librarian. The person in charge was the assistant librarian. In 1893, the reports showed an average of 7 volumes loaned daily and 8 visitors per day used the reading room. Miss Elnora Pleasants was appointed assistant librarian at \$30 per month.

The library was turned over to the city by state law in 1890. Senator James Kyle headed a group that worked several years to obtain funds for a library building. Finally in 1900, Andrew Carnegie agreed to donate \$15,000 for this purpose. The city was to be responsible for the building maintenance. C. H. Pryor donated the lot on the corner of 6th Avenue and South Lincoln Street. When Open House was held in the new building July 15, 1902, Aberdeen citizens agreed that it was the finest building west of the Mississippi. At the request of Mr. Carnegie, the library was named Alexander Mitchell Library; this in honor of his friend, who had been president of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. It was Mr. Mitchell who named Aberdeen after his own birthplace, Aberdeen, Scotland. This is the only Carnegie Library not named as such.

When Miss Dorothea Heins, the first professional librarian, was appointed in January 1924, the library had grown to a collection of 10,000 volumes with an annual circulation of 57,000 volumes. Since the thriving library was already too small for the book collection and the patrons, she expressed a need for more space. If provided, Aberdeen might have modern library service.

Miss Heins was especially concerned about the service which she thought should be developed for children. The small alcove allotted to the children was dismally inadequate for the young population now living in Aberdeen. She added more children's books to the collection, and invited the children into the library. Since then, the children of Aberdeen have always been an important part of the patrons of the library. The use of books by the children has grown more rapidly than that of the adults.

During the dust bowl years of the depression-in the 1930's, the demand for library service was very great. Depression hit most people and business organizations adversely, but it boomed the library business. Aberdonians, with more leisure and less money, spent many hours in the library. In 1933, Aberdeen readers borrowed 195,473 volumes for home use.

In 1944, Miss Hems died unexpectedly. Her assistant Miss Helen Glau was appointed librarian. By this time the shelves were so crowded with the rapidly growing book stock that it was decided to convert much of the reading space to stack area until the end of the war.

Through the years, efforts were made by the Library Board to secure better building facilities, but financial conditions in the city were such that their efforts were discouraged. In 1949, the Library Board working with a "Friends of the Library" organization initiated a bond election for funds for a new building. This failed, as did one for a smaller amount in 1951. In 1952, an election was again held to get permission to levy a two mill tax for a sinking fund to be used for a building. This too, failed.

Because of the great weight of books, the Carnegie building was condemned on February 6, 1950, by the City Engineer. It was declared unsafe for public use. After being closed for two months, a small collection of adult books was moved to the basement of the McDiarmid-Slater grocery store. There, limited services were given. The children's books were loaned to the public schools. This proved unsatisfactory because the school libraries were closed in the summer.

In December, 1951, a bookmobile was purchased to give service, especially to the children. Its summer reading program is one of the most popular activities of the year for the children. A second bookmobile was added in 1959, making it possible to spend the entire day at each of ten weekly stops. By 1960, the bookmobile circulation had grown to 186,000 per year.

The library moved again in April, 1952, to a second floor location in the Webb-Ackley building. All the books and periodicals were moved to this location which was crowded but temporary. One room was set aside for a South Dakota collection and work was begun on this useful reference collection. A microfilm reader was purchased and the Aberdeen newspaper on microfilm was added.

In 1955, an election was held to ask permission to raze the Carnegie building. The election was successful

During these trials, the library grew steadily in service and book collections. By 1961, it had grown from the first collection of 100 donated books to a fine collection of 63,655 volumes. Phonograph records, periodicals, and microfilm added to its usefulness. It has rolled up an impressive record of community service. During the years since 1917 (our first complete circulation records) it has loaned more than 4 million books and has answered countless reference questions and supplied information and inspiration to all who asked. In 1960, the library loaned 262,834 books.

Many able and dedicated trustees have served the library during its long history. Mr. August Witte, Mrs. J. H. McKeever, Miss Helen Strauss, and Mr. Harold Fowler have given many years of outstanding service.

Sponsored by a "Library Citizens Committee," the election of November 29, 1960, passed providing for a transfer of municipal bonds amounting to \$225,000, to build a library building. Plans for a new building are being drawn. The new building will be located at South Kline and Sixth Avenue. The lot was presented to the city for a library by the Milligan family in 1960 in memory of their father, Mr. A. F. Milligan, a former president of the Library Board. With this big step forward, the Aberdeen library faces a better future.

BELLE FOURCHE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Belle Fourche, South Dakota
Ena Lancaster, Librarian

A small reading room, donated books, volunteer help-and a Library is born. On December 16th, 1906, the Belle Fourche Public Reading Room and Library Association was organized in the small cattle town of Belle Fourche. First officers were President, the Reverend A. L. Baker; Vice-President, Judge O. E. Farnam; Secretary, Miss Amy Bird; Treasurer, the Reverend D. J. Perrin; and Book Collector, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.

Soon sponsors moved away; the building was sold; books were few and old. Vari-

ous Clubs and individuals tried to keep a room open part-time in one place or another. The City Council voted to pay a small fee for a part-time librarian.

The public-spirited club women of the Woman's Civic League in 1928 and 1929 helped the dedicated librarian, Miss Florence Stokes, to catalogue and repair books and fit out a room in the drafty old Court House building on Grant street.

In 1939, the Manthano Club called together representatives of the Women's Study Clubs, and under the leadership of Mrs. E. M. Sly and the Librarian, Maida Hoover, organized a Library Board of women from the Clubs, and presented a yearly Library Budget which the City Council adopted for Library support.

In 1942, the Library moved to its present location at 705 7th Avenue. This building had been the first school house in Belle Fourche. It was built of red brick with a frame addition later covered with stucco. The "little red school house" that turned gray! It needed everything. The Women's Library Board and Club members raised money with programs, teas, and donations to decorate and furnish one room for the Library, the other for a Social Hall. The Hall was rented to Fraternal Orders and Clubs for a small fee, and served Belle Fourche well as a meeting place. Gradually, the board accumulated a fund for Library Reserve.

Miss Maida Hoover was librarian and an active leader during this transition. Mrs. Wm. Wentworth, then Jean Chassel, substituted for her awhile. Maintenance of the Belle Fourche Public Library has always been a labor of love. It is impossible to mention all who have helped through the years. Cherished are the names of Mrs. E. M. Sly, Mrs. E. F. Evans (Jean Craig), and Miss E. Jane Driver.

After Miss Hoover returned to teaching, Mrs. May Wells was librarian. Then, in 1943, Mrs. Ila Evans took the post and continued constructive work for eight years. Mrs. Sue Howlett and Mrs. Max Vigoren substituted for her at times.

In 1951, Miss Ena Lancaster became librarian. She found in the library 4,784 books with a yearly circulation of 10,800

books. The library served a wide area, reaching into Butte County and Montana and Wyoming. Officers of the Library Board were Mrs. J. H. Davis, President; Mrs. Frank Kober, Vice-president; and Mrs. E. F. Evans, Secretary.

In 1957, control of the library passed to a legally constituted Board appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. Officers of this Board were Mrs. J. H. Davis, President; Mrs. Anna Weber, Vice-president; and Mrs. R. P. Harmon, Treasurer.

Interest in the Rural Library Services Act was promoted by Mrs. Laurence Weyler of the Belle Fourche Post. Butte County became the first County in the State to qualify for a library demonstration under the Act, and the Belle Fourche Public Library mothered the Northwest Regional Library.

In the meantime, with the help of Federal funds, the library was remodeled and book stacks and furniture added. The Belle Fourche Public Library moved into the former Social Hall, leaving part of the west room to the Regional Library. The next year, the Belle Fourche Library Budget provided for fluorescent lighting.

All the Women's Clubs of Belle Fourche united to sponsor Open House for the library, April 22, 1959. They were led by a committee consisting of Mrs. R. A. Smiley, Mrs. A. E. Linstead, and Mrs. Gaylord Raabe. Mrs. Laurence Weyler was Publicity Chairman. A Tea and Reception entertained 350 guests. The proceeds of the club's Cookie Sale provided the library with two reading chairs and a transistor wall clock.

In June 1958, Mr. Wm. Woffinden was elected President of the Library Board; Mrs. J. H. Davis, Vice-president; and Mrs. Anna Weber, Treasurer.

Mr. Woffinden was transferred to Salt Lake City in July of 1959 and the library lost a most capable and enthusiastic Board member. Officers then elected and now in office are President, Mr. Harry Stehens; Vice-president, Mr. G. D. Raabe; Treasurer, Mrs. Anna Weber; Secretary and Librarian, Miss Ena Lancaster; Assistant Librarian, Mrs. R. M. Walker. Other mem-

bers of the Board are Mr. Sterling Clark and Mrs. Burton Penfold, with ex-officio member Mayor George Didow and Honorary member Mrs. E. F. Evans.

Story Hours are held during the summer, and library sessions for remedial reading classes throughout the school year. The Belle Fourche Public Library has now about 9,000 books and had a circulation in 1960 of 27,560 books. The Library subscribes to fifty magazines. There is a fine collection of South Dakota and United States History Books. Schools and the Library work well together and students make much use of the library.

BERESFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Beresford, South Dakota

Mrs. Roscoe Frieberg, Librarian

Responding to the city's need for a library, the Study Club in 1923 appointed a committee on plans and arrangements to study the matter. This committee was composed of the Mrs. A. S. Colby, R. P. Sundstrom and A. S. Severson. When their report was made they stated that with the proper cooperation of citizens, they would be able to carry out a library plan. The Committee members with Mrs. George Bruehler and Carl Saeger were named as the Library Board with full authority to put the plan into execution in the name of the club. Mrs. Colby was elected the first president, and Mrs. Bruehler, the first secretary of the Beresford Library Board.

First contributions for the new library came from the club members themselves at a book shower, which resulted in forty volumes of both reference and fiction. A few weeks later the public donated almost a hundred additional volumes.

Naturally there was need for a Library Foundation Fund. The Study Club took the initiative, and donated \$150. Soon a doughnut sale netted \$32.50; a French play \$7.00; another entertainment, \$24.50; a contribution from the W.C.T.U., \$5.00, with a total of \$218.70. A Tag Day in November added another \$82.70

The first purchased books were added to the library July 31, 1923. Mrs. J. W. Reedy was chosen to replace Mr. Saeger after he

left the city. Mrs. H. J. McCauley and Blanche Seeger completed the Library Board. The latter served as librarian until January 1924; then Mrs. Lester Martelle was elected assistant librarian. The library continued its rapid growth—both in number of books and in circulation. Beresford Study Club members felt they could no longer sponsor it, as a bank failure had wiped out their hard-earned funds. In July, 1924, the Board appealed to W. J. Bulow, then city attorney, to present the matter to the city for taking over the responsibility of carrying on the work. The Council complied with the request, and appointed a committee composed of Dr. J. S. Opland, E. R. DeRemer and John Merrigan, to investigate the feasibility of the change. At the December meeting of the Library Board, it was definitely announced that the city had agreed to take over the institution. Mr. DeRemer was named president of the Beresford Library Board to represent the Council, and, in turn, he recommended the appointments of Mrs. Sundstrom, Mrs. Reecy, Mrs. Severson, and Mrs. Bruehler to serve with him.

The \$20 monthly allowance, which the city appropriated in June 1924, to defray the actual running expenses, was increased to \$40.00 per month at the February, 1929, Council meeting. Whatever part of this allowance is not required for the upkeep of the library is used toward the purchase of new books. This, with the overdue fines and the occasional benefits, constitutes the only support until in the year 1959; the city then decided to appropriate \$200 per month for the library upkeep.

The original library occupied a small area in the southeast corner of the second floor of the fire station. Today the entire upstairs is occupied by the library work. Over 10,000 volumes are classified under the Dewey Decimal System, and twenty magazines are received regularly. There are now reading tables, and a return box outside for the use of the patrons.

The library is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and evenings, 7:00 to 9:00. Mrs. Roscoe Frieberg is the present librarian, and Mrs. Harry Bean, is assistant. Present Board members are Mrs. J. L. Stead-

man, Mrs. George Bruehler and Mrs. Claude Deane with Mrs. W. P. Iverson, Secretary-Treasurer.

CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Brookings, South Dakota
Miss Orena Cooper, Librarian

The Carnegie Public Library of Brookings, South Dakota was a gift from Andrew Carnegie. It was completed in 1914 at a cost of \$10,000. It was designed by G. C. Miller, an architect from Chicago, and was built by John H. Roberts of Brookings. Mr. Roberts is still living.

Previous to moving into the present building the library was housed in the Assembly Room of the City Hall. The Women's Club of Brookings was instrumental in starting the library. They received many donations of books. The first records are dated November 27, 1911. Mr. Powers librarian at South Dakota State College, served as president of the Board of Trustees from 1915-1936. With his guidance, library services progressed rapidly. Before the building was completed the Board met in the Presbyterian Church. The first Board meeting in the newly-completed library was held on May 14, 1915.

Both adult and children's divisions were in the main part of the building. Space was soon at a premium, so the juvenile section was moved downstairs in 1940. Miss Ruby Jarman has been children's librarian since 1928, and has seen many improvements plus expansion during that period.

Miss Abigail Lyon, well known in library circles in our state, served as librarian from 1921-1925.

Mrs. Emily Archibald, who now resides in Norwich, Vermont, was librarian for twenty-two years, serving from 1927 until 1948. Miss Orena M. Cooper, the present librarian, was appointed to her position in October, 1948.

Mrs. L. C. Severin held many responsible positions in library work throughout the state. She received many honors for her work in promoting library services. She was appointed to the Library Board of

Trustees in January, 1937, and held that position until her death. Under her careful scrutiny and kindly guidance, library work in Brookings moved steadily forward. Patrons, staff, and other board members appreciate the time and effort she so willingly gave throughout the years.

Mr. Horace Fishback, banker, has also served many years as a trustee. He was appointed on November 28, 1927, and has continued as a helpful and faithful member. Other members of the Board are Mrs. C. O. Trygstad, Mrs. A. D. Evenson, and Mr. Richard Kendall. The City of Brookings is exceptionally fortunate in having these interested and dedicated people as members of the Board of Trustees.

Several clergymen have served on the Board—Father Dooley, Catholic Priest; Reverend Ewing, Episcopalian; Reverend Stodghill, Methodist; Reverend Benson, Lutheran; Reverend Clark, Baptist. The Church of God and the Mount Calvary Lutheran Churches held services in the basement for several years when the library was new and the children's department upstairs. A private kindergarten group also met here in the spring of the year. The Business and Professional Women's Group held their meetings here also.

Ten years ago an adult class in leather-tooling met here on Wednesday nights. This class was under the leadership of Mr. Sterrett, High School Manual Training instructor. Now there is neither room nor time for extracurricular activities!

The library now houses nearly fourteen thousand volumes and about one hundred periodicals. Our budget is \$12,360 and our circulation for 1960 was 52,703. Many improvements have been made in the building in the past ten years; circulation is increasing rapidly; and there are three staff members and one part-time helper. Soon we will have to think seriously about expansion—building, parking, books, and so on. Opportunities for the future are unlimited and we will work to meet the challenge!

BURKE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Burke, South Dakota

Mrs. A. C. Siverling, Librarian

In April of 1940, the Burke Public Library was sponsored by the local Woman's Club. This was a great undertaking for the ladies of the Club, and they worked hard to make it a success. To finance the Library, they sponsored Tag Days, bake sales, rummage sales, and various other projects of this nature. Their efforts bore fruit, and the library was started in a corridor of the Grade School Building. It occupied this space until 1951. Then the Woman's Club was able to obtain a building across the street from the Grade School Building. The summer was spent in renovating this building for use as a library. That fall the school children and public were able to check out their books from the new library. It was a delightful advantage to have the added space for shelves and reading tables.

With this move to the new building, the library began to experience a steady growth, and the Woman's Club found the task of financing the library too great. Therefore they approached the City Council to inquire about the possibility of a tax levy to finance the library. In 1953 at a City Election, the tax levy was voted in, and the library is now financed by this method.

Only two ladies have served as librarians of the Burke Library: Mrs. Ralph Watson set up the library in an acceptable manner, and on leaving to live in Pennsylvania, Mrs. A. G. Siverling was appointed to succeed her, followed by Mrs. Lowell Norman in 1962.

The Library is supervised by a Board of Trustees appointed by the City Mayor; Mrs. L. L. Lillibridge is Chairman of the present board. The library has approximately 5,000 volumes that have been selected and purchased to meet the needs of the school and the community patrons.

In July 1962, Mrs. Lowell Norman, assisted by the State Field Librarian, classified all the non-fiction titles, and marked the fiction titles for easier shelving.

CANOVA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Canova, South Dakota
Mrs. Blanche Miller, Librarian

What is now the Canova Public Library was founded by the Women's Literary Club, February 22, 1913. The organization meeting was held at Dr. and Mrs. J. E. McNamee's home in Canova. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. A. F. Clough; Vice-President, Mrs. B. F. Beveridge; Secretary, Mrs. J. F. Clark; Treasurer, Mrs. Butler; Reverend and A. F. Clough were also board members.

The following April they opened a library with about one hundred and fifty books with Mrs. G. S. Buchannan as the librarian.

The initial book purchase was for the Canova Sunday School Library, about ninety books at ten cents apiece.

Various money-making activities were tried during those first years. One entertainment, a basket social, brought in \$41.80. A basketball game and lunches brought \$61.85. For a while, members were assessed 25c per month. The townspeople had free use of the books. Outsiders paid \$1 a year plus 5c apiece for a new book.

After twelve years, in 1925, the Town Board took it over and has sponsored it since then. The books were moved to different places but the town bought a small building on R.R. Street, which was the library until Canova finally purchased on May 1, 1956, the building it now has on Main Street.

The Town Board voted at the municipal election to support the library by taxation. They also took over the management at that time. The first officers were: President, Dr. Lierlie; Secretary, Mrs. F. S. Stephens; Treasurer, Mrs. A. F. Clough; members of the board, A. H. Nohlgren and S. E. Strobel.

The Canova residents get books free now, and can keep them two weeks without renewing, or paying a fine of only 5c per week after they are due. People outside of town may get a book for two weeks for 5c, or they may buy a card for 50c, which allows them 32 books to read.

The library belongs to a book club right now. We get the Reader's Digest condensed book every three months. We order new books several times a year. We also take advantage of the free book loans from the State Library Association at Pierre. We subscribe for a few magazines and we have between 3,000 and 4,000 books now.

The Board now consists of two town board members and three others: Roy Baker is president, and Perry Skelton are from the town board. Others are Mrs. Stephens, Secretary; Mrs. Bishop, and Ray Shaw, now deceased.

Mrs. Stephens has been a board member most of the time since the library was started and has taken an active interest in it.

Librarians since Mrs. Buchannan: Edna Patterson, Mrs. George Hendrickson, Mrs. Jasper Swartz, Mrs. W. H. Dennis, Mrs. Stephens, Mrs. Oscar Wick, and at present it is Mrs. Blanche Miller.

Addenda: In July 1962 the Library Board met with the State Field Librarian and entirely reorganized their library.

CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Canton, South Dakota
Miss Nellie E. Brenner, Librarian
Mrs. J. J. Kneall, Assistant Librarian

In 1912, the citizens of Canton, headed by Mr. Thomas Thorson, Mrs. Jenny Gifford and the Woman's Study Club succeeded in getting for Canton a \$10,000 Carnegie Library Building.

The first vote on the library lost by a few votes. Again it was brought to a vote and this time the vote was almost unanimous in favor of the library. In order to get this Carnegie Building the City agreed to always maintain the library in a good manner, and anytime the City failed to do this the building would revert to the Carnegie Foundation.

The building of the library was in charge of Thomas Thorson and T. J. Knowlton. The building, built of red brick on a lot donated by Thomas Thorson, is a very good building. The work was done by Satrum Bros. and the painting by Mr.

Sorum. Care was taken to deaden the sound and special treatment of the basement to prevent dampness. On August 26th, 1912, plans for the library were drawn up and bids asked for. The building was completed on September 25th, 1913; and a meeting was held at the Lutheran Church for the formal transfer of the building to the City of Canton.

The address of the evening was given by Miss Lilly Boreson, State Field Librarian. Miss Boreson expressed herself as highly pleased, commending the work of the building committee.

Mr. Graham, superintendent of the school, spoke on the relation of Canton High School to the library, and President Anthony Tuve of Augustana College paid tribute to the city, our homes, and the advantage of having a Public Library. Thomas Thorson, chairman of the building committee, formally presented the completed building to Mayor Carl Tank, Mayor of the City of Canton.

The Library was opened October 24, 1913, with an Open House and book shower. Books donated totaled 500, also some money and several pictures. Mr. Thorson had weeping birch, mountain ash, and shrubs planted around the building. The first librarian was Mrs. Jenny Gifford. Miss Boreson helped Mrs. Gifford organize the library. The first trustees were Mr. Thorson, T. J. Knowlton, and Miss Rebecca Gehon. On the death of Mr. Thorson, August, 1915, a new Library Board was appointed. The new library law at this time provided for 5 members on the Library Board of Trustees—two to be ladies. The Mayor appointed James A. Lewis, G. A. Fowels, Chris Sandvig, Mrs. A. M. Anderson, and Miss Rebecca Gehon.

Mrs. Jenny Gifford resigned as Librarian in 1915 and Miss Gehon was appointed librarian, and Mrs. P. S. Puckett was appointed member of the Library Board.

In 1918, Miss Gehon resigned as librarian and Nellie Brenner was appointed. Miss Brenner was President of the South Dakota State Library Association, 1936-1937. She is an honorary member of the South Dakota Library Association and holds a life certificate of membership.

When Dr. L. Parke was Mayor of Canton, Library service was extended to residents of Lincoln County. Free service to the surrounding territory is evidence that the Library has its influence in bringing people to Canton—no distinction being made between city and county residents. Public Relations is Business, and Business is Co-operation.

The Woman's Study Club has always contributed to our magazines, as well as the other organizations, since the Library was started. Through the years the library has had new stacks, more shelving, a new floor and a new roof. The flagpole was removed from the roof and replaced on the lawn with a new silk flag waving in the breeze. Added also were a mail box and book box in the door, new steps and a sidewalk, a canopy over the front door, and many new books.

We have a shelf of free magazines from library friends. They are placed on a shelf for anyone who wants them; these need not be returned. Many, special-students, avail themselves of this opportunity.

We have a memorial section of books given in memory of friends. We have a section of Norwegian books given by the Sons of Norway, and a very good South Dakota Section. We have 27,500 books, 52 magazines, 2 daily papers, and one local paper. Last year we circulated 32,270 books and magazines and have registered 4,506 borrowers. The library is open every afternoon from 3 to 6 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. Our library serves a city population of 2,530 and a county population of 12,371.

The G. A. R. and W. R. C. met in the basement of the library for many years. But now, the EARL BOYCE MEMORIAL MUSEUM, donated to the city, occupies all the basement of the library and is under the direction of the Library Board. There are other collections of museum articles in addition to the Boyce collection. Mrs. A. M. Anderson and Mrs. C. L. Wendt, members of the Library Trustees, and Nellie Brenner, Librarian, organized the museum and took charge of it.

Our library observed Book Week by having all Elementary Grade children

come to the library to hear about books—their care and how to find books suitable for the different grades. A story is told; then they take a trip through the museum. The children bring paper and pencil to take notes on what they see and hear.

During National Library Week last year, we had Miss Hanson, Dean of Women at Augustana Academy, for the speaker. Miss Hanson wore a new native costume of Norway (beautiful indeed) while she told of the life in Norway month by month. Some music was furnished by the Academy, then all went to the Museum where much time was spent looking over interesting things. Coffee and doughnuts were served.

This year on February 10th, we will have a Civil War and Dakota Territorial Centennial exhibit in the Ben Franklin store window. In the museum we have guns, flags, hymnbooks, cannonballs, cannon, sword, and many Civil War Books. And for the Dakota Territory display we have many pioneer articles—small covered wagon, Indian utensils, etc. Then the 100 Years Progress Display.

We had Forgiveness Day last year—this permits any long-overdue book to be returned and no questions asked. Several books were returned. One book had been out 8 years.

We have an Easter Egg Tree at Easter time, and a Nativity Scene and musical church at Christmas time. The children love these little occasions.

We have had some very fine Library Trustee members: Thomas Thorson, T. J. Knowlton, James Lewis, Mrs. A. M. Anderson (40 years) Mrs. P. S. Puckett, Judge H. B. Rudolph, Superintendent C. C. Jacobson, Mrs. C. L. Wendt, Mrs. Paul Lunder, Ivar Skyberg, and August Baumann. They knew the value of a good library, gave much of their time and assistance through the years, and their loyalty gave inspiration to the librarian. Trustees in 1961 are: Ivar Skyberg, President; August Baumann, Vice-President; Mrs. Lillian Stark, Secretary; Mrs. A. M. Anderson and Blaine Rudolph. The librarians are Miss Nellie E. Brenner, li-

brarian, and Mr. J. J. Kneall, her assistant librarian.

CARTHAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Carthage, South Dakota

The Carthage Library Records were not kept for the earlier years. The Library was founded in 1918. The city appropriates a mill levy for the annual expenditures of the Library. The Library was housed first in the hotel building until it was razed. Then it was moved to a small house. In 1948 it was moved into a city-owned building that houses the council's office in back.

Mrs. E. B. Patten, who died in 1959, was active as the librarian and really took an interest in the work and providing for the customers. It seemed she would always know what they wanted. She and her husband repaired many books for us gratis after she retired from the Board. Besides the Council member, the Council appoints, four ladies to the Library Board. The present Library Board is Mrs. Irma Nelson, Chairman; Mrs. Pearl Koch, Mrs. Florence Newman, and Mrs. Ruth Raber.

The City of Carthage purchased a building on Main St. to house the fire trucks, City Council Rooms, and a mens toilet. They gave us a room, 11% x 44, for a library if we would make it into a library, which we needed.

Mrs. Irma Nelson, Chairman of the Board and myself, with some help from interested ladies, proceeded to paint, re-finish woodwork, and other work that comes up from remodeling. Mrs. Nelson and myself rebuilt all the book shelves to match, and had 20 ft. of new shelving built to match, and stained and varnished them walnut. Our walls are a pastel green, and we bought asphalt tile in a cork pattern for the floor. There is a row of flourescent lights down the center. There is a large glass window facing main street to the south, and we have bamboo shades on the windows. We have also purchased three new comfortable chairs for the library.

After three weeks of very hard, long days we were open for business March 30th, 1963. We had over 4,000 books to

move and sort after the building was ready (Collection 5,000).

There was a space adjoining the library that we also painted, refinished woodwork, and furnished as a ladies lounge and rest room. It also faces the south, so we have a bamboo shade at the window there.

The whole building is heated *by* forced air. We are going to enjoy working there. The other old building was so cold in the winter and hot in the summer that sometimes it was a hardship to be there. We had open house Library Week.

The library service hours are two hours Wednesday evening; two hours on Saturday afternoon and two hours in the evening on Saturday.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mrs. M. K. Alexander, Librarian
Centerville, South Dakota

In the spring of 1903, a lady visited Centerville trying to interest people in a Traveling Library. The books would be placed in a business place down town and 'Left for a period of six months. Then an exchange collection would be sent out. The membership fee would be \$2.00 and later on, the books could be purchased and made the nucleus of a private or public library. The City Council did not, at that time, think there were enough people interested in a City Library to warrant the city taking over the project, but sufficient interest in good reading among the ladies gave them a goal and they secured enough memberships to have this Traveling Library brought to town. It was placed in a place of business. Store managers or clerks acted as librarian one day a week. Books could be checked out and kept for two weeks, with two-week renewal when necessary. Without a renewal, a fine of one cent a day was imposed. Later on, the ladies were able to buy a few books at a time-some small donations of money were given to buy new books and many good used books were donated.

The years went by, and with frequent moves from place to place, many times, it seemed the Library would have to go. But the women would not give up. The

Library was shifted from business place to business place-Blade's Store, Karl Kron Store, Higenbotham Hardware, and other places. For many years it was located in the Centerville Journal office while Lydia and Charles Hornbeck were editors. By the time it was moved to the Higenbotham Hardware Store, there were several hundred books-many of these were lost in the fire which damaged the store. Losing so many books was quite a blow to the ladies, but they got even busier getting more memberships and forming a private library association. Through many years the association was very active and had many members; then during the war years and depression, membership decreased and interest waned, but a few ladies kept it alive. Some of those women we recall were: Mns. James Thomson, Mrs. Ed Waterbury, Mrs. Tomlinson, Mrs. James Mee, Mrs. L. Kellogg, Mrs. Alan Bogue, Mrs. Nellie Gunderson, Mrs. Florence Berven, Mrs. M. K. Alexander, Mrs. Art Dann, Lydia and Charles Hornbeck, Mrs. Anna Struble, Mrs. Ethelwyn Syver-son, and many others.

Later the Chautauqua Association, composed of a group of all churches and organizations in town, was formed. The goal of this group was a Community House which would house the Library, be a community center, and have a rest room for the public. The depression, the war, and lack of interest for so many years caused the Community House idea to be given up. However, with the building of the new City Building, a chance was offered for the revival of the Public Library, with the idea of a free City Library some time in the future. It was hoped that a separate room could be built on to the new *city* building to house the library, but the city could spend no more money at that time, so in planning the new building, special attention was paid to arranging a room which could be used for both city council and library with a rest room. Later this was furnished by the ladies of Centerville.

Believing New Years is a time to make Resolutions, the start for a Free Public Library began on January 1, 1935. A meeting of all the organizations was called at the School House. At this time it was de-

tided to dissolve the Chautauqua Association at once, since it had accomplished at least a part of the object it set out to obtain. The \$400.00 in the treasury was voted as a nucleus to start the public library. Cook books were sold for the benefit of the Library. Some organizations, feeling a community building was not in the picture for some time, used their money for other projects. The Civic League later dissolved and turned over their money, \$400.00, to the Library Fund and \$144.93 to the Cemetery Association.

Now that the Chautauqua Association was dissolved, the new library Association was formed. Superintendent Strand at this time presented a clear and comprehensive plan for starting and operating a Public Library. A Board of five governors was elected, four from different organizations and the fifth from the City Council. No librarian was employed for some months-volunteers from ladies' clubs acted as librarians. Mrs. H. G. Gunderson, Mrs. A. J. Henrich, and Mrs. M. K. Alexander went to Vermillion for nine weeks to receive instructions from Mabel K. Richardson, University Librarian, on cataloging, management, etc., of a Public Library. This information was passed on to other ladies who helped get the library in proper order and acted as librarians. The fiction titles were moved from the school library in 1935 to the City Library and remained there until after the new School building was finished. For some years the City Board and the School Board each gave the Library \$25.00 a month to help pay the Librarian and for other expenses. Also many donations of money were received from societies and individuals to buy books while many valuable books have been donated.

There are now about 5,000 accessioned books. There are also a large number of used books which are not accessioned, put are loaned out.

The final step to make this a Free Public Library occurred in April, 1953. The people of Centerville then voted to put aside a certain amount. Anyone in the trade territory can get books free of charge by following the State Library rules, which the librarian explains to them when they first take out books. Each year the library

features books and literature for special days such as National Book Week, National holidays, etc., reference material and magazines.

Many books of valuable information, such as: The F.B.I., Ford Foundation, Winchester Rifles, Railroading, Cancer, J. Edgar Hoover, W.C.T.U, etc., are donated by large firms.

Each summer the reading and story hour create interest for the children in good books. Readers the past year raised our circulation count to 4,000.

CHAMBERLAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Chamberlain, South Dakota
Miss Catherine Arp, Librarian

During the year 1913 the Travelers Club, with Miss Myrtle Farmer as president, discussed the possibility of reorganizing a public library for the City of Chamberlain. Mrs. L. B. Laughlin, a charter member, was one of the main promoters. A committee was appointed, composed of Mrs. Wm. Putnam, Mrs. T. A. Berry, Mrs. A. P. Duncan, and Mrs. J. E. House to decide what could be done. They met with a committee from the Commercial Club at their Club Rooms in the first City Hall at the location of the present Legion Club. The Travelers' Club were grateful for their offer to house the library in one of the furnished rooms of the City Hall.

Money raising was started with a series of Round Robin Lunches. At these, each club member entertained four guests with each paying ten cents to their hostess, and agreeing to each to entertain four other guests and collecting ten cents each for the Fund. This entertaining went on all winter until \$57.95 was raised to start the Library.

All clubs and organizations of Chamberlain were contacted for contributions. A Commercial Club reception was held in the City Hall for the opening of the Library and each person attending was asked to bring a book as a gift. A sister of Mrs. George Pilger, Mrs. George Mehl, had a friend who donated many books of fiction;

thus the shelves took on the appearance of a small library.

Members of the Travelers' Club and representatives of other organizations took turns acting as librarian during the first year. The library was open four hours a day. Miss Myrtle Farmer served as the first paid librarian, and Mrs. Reeda Putnam was the second. Each received \$15 per month. When the funds began to get low, Mathew Brown and Rev. McCarthy acted as a committee to interview the City Council as to the possibility of having the library taken over by the City. The tax levy to support the library got a big majority vote. In the winter of 1917, the City Hall burned one night and the supply of books was destroyed; but more books were procured, and the library was set up in the Bingham Building, now occupied by the Remmele Insurance Company. When the new City Hall was built on Main Street, the Library was assigned its present location on the second floor. Mrs. Elizabeth House first served as librarian and later Mrs. Ada B. Gray. After Mrs. Gray's illness and death, Miss Catherine Arp has been the efficient librarian.

The business of the Library has been handled by a Board of Trustees appointed by the City Commissioners. Mrs. O. E. Bailey was one of the very first appointed members and has served on the Board continuously as buyer of the juvenile books. Mrs. John B. Wait was appointed in 1930 and is still serving. Mrs. Frank Bartlett is the present Chairman of the Board and Rev. R. R. Klein is the newest member. Mrs. E. R. Slifer also served a long time as a member of the Board.

Our library has grown from a very small collection of books to its present 9,000 volumes.

-Mrs. Florence H. Wait

DELKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Chester, South Dakota

Mrs. S. F. Delker, Librarian

On October 30, 1951 a group of interested people met to make initial plans for a public library in memory of S. F. Delker, who had served as Superintendent of the Chester School for twenty-seven years. He

passed away on June 4, 1951. The idea of a memorial library originated with Velda Eilers, (now Mrs. Edward Brandt of Rapid City), one of Superintendent Delker's graduates, who spoke of the possibility with some of her friends. Consequently, a small memorial fund was the financial beginning of the library.

The first officers elected were: President, Mrs. Martin Gienapp; Vice-President, Mrs. Harold Dannenbring; Secretary, Miss Marion Wiess; Treasurer, Mrs. Clem Reddin. Other Board members were: Mrs. Kinney Reiser, Mrs. Reiser, Mrs. Claude Myers, and Mrs. Carl Wieland. Mrs. S. F. Delker and son, Lloyd, were named honorary board members.

A drive was made by the Library Board for books and cash to promote this venture. By correspondence, the secretary was able to contact most of the alumni of the school, who then sent contributions. Many people in this and surrounding communities donated books and cash. Book cases were also donated. Additional ones were built by the Agriculture boys at the school. A roll top desk and chair, and children's table and benches, were donated.

On the opening date, February 9, 1952, the library was housed in a small room of the American Legion Building-rent free. The community was invited and a light lunch was served by the Library Board, Mrs. Delker acting hostess.

To supplement the 550 books on the shelves, books were borrowed from the State Library at Pierre. One hundred books could be kept for six months, returned and others borrowed.

During the first summer the library was open Wednesday and Saturday evenings from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. The following winter it was open Saturday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. This time schedule has been followed until the present time, except evening openings were changed to 7:30 to 9:30 the past several years. Board members served as librarians gratis. By-laws were drawn up.

Marlene Brown conducted a story hour at the library the summer of 1952 on Saturday mornings. Children from ages four

to ten attended. Twenty-one children were enrolled in this successful project.

An Annual Open House meeting was held each fall at which the Library Board served refreshments. The public was given facts about the progress of the library and a program was given.

Rummage, Food, and Bake Sales were held to raise money to buy new books. People of the community co-operated by donating and buying goods. Books were purchased each spring.

By the second annual meeting on October 14, 1953, the library had been moved to a small building on Main Street, which was owned by H. W. Ross Company, and which we were allowed to use rent free. The Board members had cleaned and painted the interior. The building was heated within with an oil burner. There were now 1,034 books for circulation.

On October 30, 1954, the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Martin Gienapp; Vice-President, Mrs. Harris Benson; Secretary, Mrs. Kinney Reiser; and Treasurer, Mrs. Clem Reddin.

In the spring of 1955 Mrs. Gienapp, Board president, met with the Township Board to ask for financial assistance in operating the library. At the township meeting it was unanimously voted to give assistance. Before this, the library had been financed by contributions, memorials, bake, food, and rummage sales.

The library entered a float in the parade for the 50th Anniversary of Chester in August of 1955.

On May 28, 1956, the board met for re-organization to comply with state law and township regulations. Following officers elected: President, Mrs. Martin Gienapp; Vice-President, Mrs. Harris Benson; Secretary, Mrs. Harlow Cramer; and Treasurer, Mrs. Clem Reddin. Mrs. Carl Wieland served as Member at Large and Mrs. Delker and Lloyd as honorary members. Mrs. S. F. Delker consented to serve as librarian for a small remuneration. Gerald Richardson was hired to paint the exterior of the building white.

Mrs. Delker, librarian, fell and broke her leg in May 1959. Library Board Members

acted as librarians. A few people of the community also volunteered.

In 1960, the Board president was given notice to vacate the building as it would be sold. A group of board members went to Sioux Falls to investigate trailer possibilities. A few days later it was learned it would be possible to buy the present building. At a meeting with the township board it was decided to buy the building and borrow part of the money from the bank. The library was cleaned and books sorted and rearranged.

On July 16, 1960, the Board sponsored a bake and food sale which netted \$72.18 to be used in buying books.

Mrs. Delker was able to return as librarian on December 10, 1960. A rail had been placed by the door of the library to assist her in mounting the step.

On March 4, 1961, it was reported the building was paid for and the bank note cancelled. Small children's books, table, and benches were moved to the small rear room, leaving more space in the main room for juvenile books. Mrs. Carl Wieland was appointed to write the history of the Delker Memorial Library.

Mrs. Clem Reddin resigned as treasurer in May 1961. The Township Board appointed Mrs. Harry Nelson as a new board member. On April 8, 1961, the Board met to elect a treasurer and transact necessary business. It was voted that Mrs. Cramer act as Secretary-Treasurer and Mrs. Gienapp and Mrs. Benson serve as President and Vice-President respectively.

Records the past year show: 72 juvenile and 12 adult books were purchased. Seven hundred thirty-six juvenile books and one hundred and twenty-seven adult books were checked out. Fines collected amounted to \$16.55. The Library contains 1,850 books. Regulation library rules are observed. The State Library Commission has approved our library.

Although the Delker Memorial Library is small, it fills a vital need in our community. It stands as a Memorial to Superintendent S. F. Delker, who served his community so faithfully many years, not only as a school man but as a citizen of the

community. He encouraged the young people to further their education and appreciate the finer things in life. He was lovingly called "Prof" by both students and people of the community.

CLARK CITY LIBRARY

Clark, South Dakota

Mrs. Martha Severance, Librarian

Clark is the county seat of Clark County, and has a population of about 1,500. It has always been a progressive city and still continues to advance.

Many years ago the Women's Club in our city decided a Library was needed. Immediately they got busy promoting the project. They solicited the community for books and so had many good titles to start with. This increased the interest. At first they met in a small room, but soon it was necessary to have more space. A room was given for the library use in the City Hall, and in July 1921, the Council voted to finance the Library. A Library Board was appointed and Miss Fay Hurlbut was appointed Librarian.

The Library was open Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., also from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. which still remain our hours. The librarian was paid a small salary for these six hours. Rules and regulations were drawn and, with only a few changes, are still in use. We qualified with State requirements early in the life of our library.

Due to poor health Fay Hurlbut resigned on June 1, 1942, and shortly after passed away. The present librarian, Mrs. Severance was appointed July 1, 1942, and has continued to serve since that time.

We have over 6,000 books on our shelves of Fiction and Non-Fiction for adult and youth. We have new book purchases regularly and they include many new books suggested by the State Library Office at Pierre. We have a pay shelf on which are placed many popular books on various subjects, for which there is an interest and they are rented for 10c for two weeks. As new books arrive, we place the books for the pay shelf on a special shelf. In this

way they are used more freely. Non-residents pay a fee of one dollar for a membership card to be used during the year and renewed. We try to keep our primary grade youngsters interested in special shelves with books of their interest. We do this also for the grades and teenagers of the town. We do not have much room for our reading tables but any magazine brought in is circulated out to the community to be read and passed on to a neighbor. This has been successful as well as getting a good magazine into circulation, that might never have reached some of these homes otherwise.

We are handicapped for room; however, we expect a change with a larger space for housing our books and materials soon. Until that time, we are glad for our Library and its place in the activity of our community.

CLEAR LAKE CITY LIBRARY

Clear Lake, South Dakota

Mrs. Hope Konold, Librarian

The Clear Lake Library was organized 1899. The first recorded meeting was held on March 9, 1900. Those who acted as sponsors in this early beginning were Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Lockhart, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Sanborn, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kreger, Mrs. Knuckey, Mrs. Penberthy, Mrs. Flinders, Dr. Staley, J. C. Flank, J. E. Walseth and Mr. Tandy.

The humble beginning was started with a house-to-house canvass for books, and also magazines to be donated. To earn money to buy new books they had concerts, ice cream socials, and dances. A year's membership fee of \$3.00 was paid by most of the sponsors. Non-members paid a fee of 10c a book and 5c for renewal.

The first small room for the library was donated by Mr. Tandy, on a side street, where now is the Lavin Barber-shop.

On September 25, 1901, the Library Board appointed J. C. Flank, J. E. Walseth, and Mr. Shepherd to go before the City Council and ask them to take over the Library. This was done and reported in the minutes of November 27, 1901. Now

the Clear Lake City Library was born. The Library Board at that time was J. E. Walseth, Mr. Shepherd, Mrs. Wm. Kreger, Mrs. Torgerson and Mrs. Knuckey.

The Library was moved to the Risken Drug Store. There were 207 books that had to be moved, all in good condition. Mr. Risken and his wife acted as Librarians until 1904. The books were then moved to a store owned and operated by Miss Strickland. Here they remained for just a year and then they moved to E. F. Kohnke's Store. Here with Mr. Kohnke or a member of his family acting as Librarian, they remained until 1915. In 1915 the Clear Lake City Hall was built and the Library was moved there where it has remained since.

The first Librarian at City Hall was P. B. Bemis who was hired for a two months trial. Then his daughter, Lois, was hired. Miss Bemis resigned and Miss Mabel Knowlton became Librarian on March 3, 1916. She resigned in 1918 and Mrs. Claude Force was appointed and served until 1930 when Miss Kathryn Kreger was appointed. Her parents were early sponsors of the Library. In 1949 she resigned to be married, and Mrs. Myrtle Caldwell was appointed and served until September 1951. The appointee at that time is the present librarian, Mrs. Hope Konold.

The Clear Lake City Library is supported by the City. Everyone living in Clear Lake may have a Library card and all school children are encouraged to have a card. (This is a consolidated school.) We have 530 listed patrons. There are 7,015 books. We subscribe to 15 magazines.

The present Library Trustees are Mrs. Oriska Hover, Mrs. Kathryn Brown, Mrs. Mabel Bader, Mrs. Margaret Anderson and Mr. Edward Matejovsky. They meet on the first Tuesday of each month with the Librarian as secretary.

PRISCILLA CLUB LIBRARY

Corsica, South Dakota

Mrs. C. J. Menning, Librarian

The Priscilla Club Library was established in 1912 by a group of twelve women, each of whom brought a book to be passed

around to be read by the members. Then it was used as the nucleus of a library. These founders embroidered, held sales and served suppers to raise funds from which they purchased books. For years these books were kept in the homes of members of the Priscilla Club, at Mrs. C. Iverson's at first, and then Mrs. C. J. Menning's, the last in which the books were housed. When the fire station was re-modeled in 1950, provision was made for the library to be located on the second floor; that is its present location.

Since 80 per cent of the readers are children, much emphasis is laid in the careful selection of their books. Each summer for many years a Vacation Reading Program has been held; in recent years a story hour for tiny tots has been added. Not *only* town teachers but also many rural teachers avail themselves of the opportunity of borrowing books for their students.

Through taxation, the town, since 1950, has contributed to the support of the library, hut, prior to that date, the club members were solely responsible for the revenues. The annual amateur program was the chief source of income. It was, however, dropped this year in favor of a father-son banquet, which was successful in a big way.

The Corsica Library Board consists of three Club members appointed by the Priscilla Club president, the librarians and the assistant librarian. Mrs. C. J. Menning has served as librarian since 1943; her assistant librarian, Mrs. Henry Feldhake has also served those years.

From June 4-11, a library display relating to the Dakota Centennial Anniversary brought much attention and marked the opening of this year's Summer Reading Program.

DE SMET PUBLIC LIBRARY

De Smet, South Dakota

Mrs. Ida B. Belzer, Librarian

At a meeting of the Mother's Club on October 14, 1926, held in the home of Bertha Stone, with Grace Stimson presiding as President, the motion was made that the Club write to Pierre, S. Dak. to see

if they could get a free circulating library loan from the S. D. State Library Commission to make a start toward establishing a library in De Smet. The motion was carried and Mrs. Elmer Robinson and Mrs. Charles Rogge were appointed to get a book loan and donations of books from the townspeople.

At first the books were kept at homes of the different club members and club members were to act as librarians. The library hours were to be on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 3 to 5 o'clock.

The mothers put on home talent plays, had silver teas, card parties and several other projects to raise money to purchase books.

One year each member bought a current best-seller-read the book herself and then passed it on to another member. When all the Club had read the book, it became the property of the library and was put on the shelf.

In 1928, Louise Brewer joined the Mother's Club and offered space for a library in the Brewer Variety Store. November 1, 1928, the library needed more space, so it was moved to Meyer's basement under the People's State Bank, remaining there until 1934.

The De Smet Study Club joined the Mother's Club in sponsoring the Library project. Each Club donated \$25.00; \$5.00 was donated by: The American Legion Auxiliary, Garden Club, and De Smet Firemen.

The City now sponsors the library and it is housed in the City Hall on Main Street with approximately 5,000 volumes. Mrs. Belzer, the librarian, finds the circulation increasing each year.

DEADWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Deadwood, South Dakota

Mrs. Marjorie Pontius, Librarian

The first library in Deadwood was "The Round Table Club Library," which was started in 1895. Members of the Club felt the need of a Library to help with their programs. It was located in one room of the Syndicate Building, and Mrs. Marie

Gaston, president of the Round Table Club, was librarian. From the minutes in 1899 it was moved and carried that a room in the Post Office Block (Now the Wagner Hotel Building) be secured for the use of the Library at \$15 per month. "The Librarian is to select suitable paper for the wall." Beginning that same year it was known as The Deadwood Public Library.

Mrs. Gaston laid the ground work for securing the present building through the Carnegie Foundation. The Thursday and Round Table Clubs also worked toward Carnegie help. Through the concerted efforts of all, \$1,500 was obtained for the building. To this the city added \$863 and furnished the site.

Mrs. Gaston passed away in 1902, and was succeeded by Mrs. Elizabeth Phelps, who had assisted her at various times. Through some arrangement by the mayor, Mrs. Phelps was permitted to go to the Denver Library for a training course that they gave their employees. Thus the new library was set up according to the existing standards of the time.

The new building was dedicated November 7, 1905. It continued with Mrs. Phelps' able and dedicated service to the community. During World War I, books were collected for the soldiers, and our library cataloged these and prepared them for circulation. A ton of books were processed, packed, and shipped overseas. In the middle and late '20's, the library was beginning to grow out of its walls-shelves were full and books were stacked on the floor. In 1926 a basement floor was poured, and a brick wall was built to enclose the furnace. Additional shelving had to be added. The Library continued in size and influence during the 27 years of Mrs. Phelps' leadership.

Mrs. F. D. Smith served as Librarian from 1929 to 1933. She had served for many years on the Library Board of Trustees; she had been active in politics, and had done some writing of local historical interest. She was actively interested in genealogy. The result is we have an unusually fine collection in this area.

In 1933, Mrs. Isabel Boyer succeeded Mrs. Smith as librarian. For some years

Mrs. George Baggaley (Imogene) served as her assistant. In 1949 Mrs. Boyer resigned because of illness, and Miss Evelyn Vognild came as librarian. She had her Masters in Library Science and experience in the State Library Commission in Pierre. She was therefore capable of doing the much-needed job of reorganization and strengthening weak areas. She did much in public relations through her contacts with various civic organizations as well as study groups. Her work with the Story Hour and Summer Reading Clubs for Children did much to create interest resulting in greater use of the library. In 1951 she was married to George Brewster, Jr. She served as President of the South Dakota Library Association in 1953-54 and 1954-55. In 1957 she resigned to move with her husband to Denver.

Mrs. Edna Ferguson, already known in Deadwood as teacher-librarian at Deadwood High School, served as Librarian 1957-1959. Succeeding her is Mrs. Marjorie Pontius (Mrs. Elmer L.), a former teacher-librarian, who began her work and interest in libraries as a student assistant here in the Deadwood Public Library under Mrs. Phelps' instruction.

DELL RAPIDS CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Dell Rapids, South Dakota

Mrs. Edward Sundem, Librarian

On January 29, 1901, just 62 years ago, fourteen women organized the Dell Rapids Women's Club, whose chief objective was to establish and maintain a public library and reading room. Their goal was to build, eventually; but for nine years prior to the realization of their dream, they financed Library Rooms down town. Here most of the books and magazines were donated. Records show that the Club worked tirelessly to support this project by sponsoring suppers, food sales, socials, recitals, lectures, parties, book showers and rummage sales. At this time, only 19 towns in South Dakota had public libraries and most of them were inadequate. As early as 1901 the Club Women wrote letters to several philanthropists soliciting financial aid and one received a favorable one from Andrew Carnegie. But, the population was less than

1500! Therefore it was necessary to wait a few years until the population would increase. Mr. Carnegie wrote and offered \$6,000 toward the fund if the city made a \$500 appropriation for maintenance, so the women canvassed the Wards with a petition for a vote on a tax issue and this was carried April 21, 1903.

The Carnegie Library was dedicated on March 16, 1910 when Superintendent U. S. Earls in the address of the day presented the keys to Mayor Homer Krause. Librarians have been: Elizabeth Nisbet, Eugenie Walker (Mrs. P. G. Gordon), Mrs. Anna S. Potter, Fay Elliott (Mrs. U. S. Earls), Mrs. Frank Briley, Viola Carlson, and Mrs. Edward Sundem.

The Library has made a steady growth. Today the library approximately contains 11,000 volumes. Forty periodicals are subscribed for and kept on file for a reasonable length of time. Reference works are kept up-to-date. Last year the circulation reached 25,857. Borrowers' Cards total 1,004 including 245 which represent rural families since it is the policy of the Library Board to serve rural patrons within shopping distance of Dell Rapids. Pupils from the public school and St. Mary's School also use the library extensively for reference.

-Mrs. James A. Nesby, President
Library Board

DOLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Doland, South Dakota

Mrs. Dorothy A. Klein, Librarian

The Doland Public Library was organized by the Doland Study Club members during the year 1927-1928 when Mrs. Hulda Smith (Fletcher) was the president. The idea of a Public Library came into her mind and she presented her plan at the first meeting of the club that year. A committee: Mrs. Don Cole, Mrs. Jack Long, and Mrs. Fletcher set to work at once on the project. All members gave generously of their time and effort. The people of the community also contributed books. The City Council agreed to pay for the rental of a room for the Library. Furniture was donated and shelves built. On February 8, 1928, the idea became a reali-

ty and Doland Public Library opened in an upstairs room in the Riske building with 300 volumes. To raise money for books and supplies there has been donation parties, bake sales, bazaars, jamboree, carnival, marionette shows, home talent plays, and community birthday calendar. In later years, a Tag Day is held on the last Saturday in September.

In 1929, the Library became a member of the State Library Association. The first five years, each club member took her turn at the Library under the supervision of Mrs. Don Cole, who was chosen librarian and also chairman of the Library Board. Other members of the Board were Mrs. Jack Long, Mrs. Ben Reinhardt, Mrs. Frank McLaughlin, and Mrs. Fletcher.

In 1938, the Library was moved to its present location, the basement rooms in Hotel Doland. The first paid librarian was Miss Edna Holmes in 1936; other librarians were Mrs. Harold Gelston, Mrs. Charles Hahn, Mrs. Rhea Burgess, and Mrs. Harold Klein. Present Board members are Mrs. George Gelston, Mrs. C. A. Peterson, Mrs. Otto Kitzman, Mrs. Melvin Torkelson, and Walter Hofer. The library to date has over 5,000 volumes.

We have a story hour every Saturday afternoon. Last summer we had 86 children registered in the Summer Reading Program, planned by the State Library Commission, and 63 received certificates for reading the required books.

The Richfield Grange, assisted by Doland and community, are planning to build a large building in Doland as a Memorial to the late Dr. H. W. Sherwood. The lot has been purchased and different projects have been started for the Public Library, with rest rooms for each.

DAKOTA WOMAN'S CLUB LIBRARY

Eagle Butte, South Dakota
Miss Charlotte Austin, Librarian

No community is too small to have a library-if only a few persons have the vision and perseverance to carry on. Eagle Butte is a small town with a population of 357 according to the census of 1930. It is

located in the north central part of the state on the edge of the Cheyenne Reservation. The town has two Federated Women's Clubs and another about to join the South Dakota Federation. In May, Mrs. S. C. Polley, President of the Sixth District of the South Dakota Federation, to which these clubs belong, and Mrs. Barnes of the Free Library Commission (then), went to Eagle Butte for a visit. They found an enthusiastic spirit within the Eagle Butte Clubs.

In the spring of 1931 the Dakota Club of Eagle Butte, South Dakota, sponsored a project to give this community a free library; but the financial depression which hung over the country raised almost insurmountable obstacles. The opening of the library was far from an auspicious one, for it was then housed temporarily in the partially finished auxiliary building, and the only books available were those borrowed from the South Dakota (Free) Library Commission at Pierre. However, it became a nucleus with which to enlarge upon. The community was asked for donations of money as well as books. The response was very generous, so the Dakota Club Library began to be a reality. With winter approaching, a new problem presented itself for the library sponsors to solve. The temporary quarters were not suitable for cold weather. So, through the generosity of Naeve's store, the library was given shelf room in the store. Here the library existed from the fall of 1931 to the spring of 1934. Slowly but steadily the number of volumes in the library increased from various sources, such as direct donations of books by people in the community, purchases by the Dakota Club funds from sponsored dances, bake sales, amateur hour programs, and many other money-raising schemes. The Auxiliary and Kensington Club made money donations, too.

In the spring of 1943, the Library had outgrown the shelf space assigned to it in the store, and a new location had to be procured. The Local Board of Education offered the club a room for a temporary location, but soon this space was needed for school activities. When the new location had to be secured, the sponsors decided that the library should have a home of its

own. An old building was finished and the library vision of the Club became visible. Material was furnished by the Dakota Club and the labor by the W. P. A. At that time the library contained 755 volumes, 60 of which were loaned by the South Dakota (Free) Library Commission. The small club of 13 members earned all the money to buy the lot, building, stucco, paint and furniture besides buying books and materials and caring for their little library. Each served their turn as librarian. Finances seemed to be garnered by holding food sales, sponsoring shows, having amateur hours and sponsoring carnival dances. Each of the members also entertained at dinner-bridge once a year to raise money.

This small serviceable library grew. Trees and shrubs were planted by the cement walks, grass was planted for the lawn, painted window boxes filled with blooms and other flower beds gave the home-like usable atmosphere that was within and without. In addition 22 reference books were bought.

Added interest in the Dakota Club Library was aroused after the passage of the Federal Library Services Act. Interest increased, too, after Belle Fourche Regional and Brown County Regional Libraries were activated. The Tri-County area consisting of Corson, Dewey and Ziebach counties--perhaps the most sparsely settled area in the state--began to buzz with meetings held concerning preparation for another regional, with a Bookmobile that would bring books and other library services to the public of this area. Committee members from the area were appointed. Our Eagle Butte Library was sort of a nucleus for this future development. In 1958 and 1959 a Field Librarian from the Commission was sent by the Director, Miss MacKay, to assist in organizing or reorganizing some of the local libraries in preparation for the Bookmobile.

The Tri-County Regional Library center was located at Timber Lake, with Eagle Butte Dakota Club Library becoming one of the sub-stations. In the past the library was kept open only two afternoons and one evening a week. Now, Miss Charlotte Austin is employed as librarian each afternoon from 1:30-4:30 and two evenings

a week from 7:30-9:00 p.m. On Saturday mornings she pleases the younger children with a Story Hour.

The circulation record for the 1960-61 year shows close on to 190 books per month. That is a good average, considering that the Eagle Butte-Cheyenne Agency High School services most of the school children with their adequate government library.

EDGEMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Edgemont, South Dakota

Mrs. Carrie Barr, Librarian

The Edgemont Public Library was started about 1923. Mrs. Dick Goldnig was librarian, as they had space in their store for a few books. The next year the books were moved to the small City Hall and Mrs. Kate Sprague was librarian. Later Miss Dorothy Stafford (now Mrs. Dorothy Rea) was librarian. We had to move for a few years to a smaller building two blocks off Main Street. We had about 2,000 books and Mrs. Ellen Thomas was Librarian. The library was only open 5½ hours, three times a week. At that time we had an old coal heater and built our fires and carried water from home to heat for washing our hands.

Mrs. Thomas decided one day to retire without any advance notice. This is when Mrs. Mary Veteransneck and Mrs. Carrie Barr divided the time and each worked 5½ hours, three times a week for \$11 apiece in order to keep a library in Edgemont. Our Mayor said we must close unless \$600 would pay all the bills. A farm home was moved in from the country. Then the National Youth Association helped with repair work on it. We moved the books and library again; Mrs. Clair Kerr and daughter, Frances, Mrs. Mary Veteransneck and daughter, Frances, and myself, Mrs. Carrie Barr, moved the books twice that year: from City Hall and again to this Library building. We carried about 3,000 books.

Up until World War II, we only had an old coal stove; then we asked for an oil stove. We now have about 7,500 books. Our budget was \$600, then \$800, and \$1,000

then \$1,200, and now the last two years, \$1,500. Mrs. Vetersneck retired, as she was moving to Illinois and I have had the full-time 5¹/₂ hours three times a week since October, 1957. We subscribe to 18 magazines.

Members of our present Library Board are:

Ed Colgan, President; Mrs. Clair Kerr, Vice-president; Mrs. Lucy Hyatt, and Mrs. Carrie Barr, Librarian.

ELK POINT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Elk Point, South Dakota

Mrs. Minnie Smith, Librarian

On November 23, 1933, the Elk Point City Council, with Charles P. Gill as Mayor, passed a resolution approving a city library. Mrs. Charlotte Hasson Ryan was instrumental in bringing the library question before the Council and gave her time as the first librarian. The Library was located in a room over the power-house since this place eliminated cost of rent, light, and heat. Books were donated by organizations, and individuals. Benefit card parties were held to buy children's books. Some of the money was used to buy used books from the Junior League in Sioux City. These books were purchased for 25c per copy, but were the latest copies which had been withdrawn from their Rental Shelves.

In 1936, the Library question was brought to a vote of the people, who voted in favor of a library. The first Library Board consisted of five members: Mrs. Charlotte Hasson Ryan, chairman; John Neary, who represented the City Council, Miss Kathryn French; Mrs. Mabel Donley; and Jonas Leyman; with Mrs. Marjorie Fowler Kalstad as librarian. When the City Auditorium was built, a space was provided for the library, into which it was moved in 1943.

The library is open Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday afternoons from one until five o'clock, and evenings from six until eight-thirty o'clock, with Mrs. Minnie Smith as librarian. "Minnie," as everyone calls her, has been a faithful and most interested worker. She is secretary and treasurer of the Library Board, catalogues

all books, repairs, mends, and shellacs books that need such repair. She has held this position for the past 16 years.

The present Library Board consists of five members who meet the last Tuesday of each month. Members are Mrs. Agnes Solberg, chairman; Mrs. Jeanette Fennel, Mrs. Louise Olson, Frank Stickney, and Mrs. Charlotte Hasson Ryan. Mrs. Ryan has been a member of the board for 26 years.

The 1958 yearly library report showed 4,906 volumes with 948 registered patrons. Circulation was 9641 volumes, evenly divided between adult's and children's books.

This article was taken from the "Elk Point Centennial Book 1859-1959," submitted by Mrs. Charlotte Hasson Ryan.

ELKTON WOMAN'S CLUB PUBLIC LIBRARY

Elkton, South Dakota

Mrs. Phoebe Hartwig, Librarian

Early in 1941, the Woman's Club of Elkton, South Dakota, decided to look into the possibilities of starting a library. In April, the library became a reality when the City Council gave the club permission to use a room in the City Auditorium for a one year trial period. (This room still houses the library.) Each member contributed one dollar to the library fund, which was to serve as a working capital.

Book shelves were made and on June 7th, 1911, the Elkton Woman's Club Library opened to the public with 150 books from the Traveling Library of the South Dakota State Library in Pierre; in addition, many books were donated locally.

Club members served as librarians until Geraldine Tnieme became librarian under the N. Y. A. project.

Since there were so many requests for children's books, the Brookings Library made a number of loans in order that the younger readers could be supplied.

By 1945, it was financially difficult for the club to keep up with expenses in spite of a "Tag Day" and of the P.T.A. paying the librarian for several months. Club as-

sessments had been all too frequent, so a committee was appointed to meet with the City Council to ask for aid. The Council voted to allow \$600. At the time went on, this amount was gradually increased until now they allow enough for running expenses. The time came when the library needed a complete overhauling. In 1952, this was made possible by an allotment from the successful Club skating project. Under the supervision of Mrs. J. E. Kleffmann, the room was painted and redecorated, and new linoleum laid. Some of the husbands of club members made and installed new shelving, which was then bleached and waxed by some of the ladies. A desk, a chair, and a used library table were added. An electric clock, a bookcase and many good books were donated by interested friends. Thirty-five new books were purchased, also subscriptions to "The National Geographic Magazine" and to "Ideals."

Miss Bessie Hodge and Mrs. J. Markine catalogued the library.

When all the work was finished and the library ready to "go" again, an Open House was held in the Auditorium basement. Miss Orena Cooper from the Brookings Library was guest speaker.

There have been a number of librarians. Quite often these have *been* high school girls. A club member, Miss Anna McLane, was librarian from 1956 until the late summer of 1960. Mrs. Ina Vanderwal is serving at the present time. Hours are from 3:30 to 4:30 on Wednesdays and 1:00 to 4:00 on Saturdays.

The club sponsors a summer reading program, ending with a picnic and presentation of certificates to those completing the requirements.

The library also serves surrounding school districts. Teachers may take a collection of books at one time for their schools.

ESTELLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Estelline, South Dakota
Mrs. Dora Carbine, Librarian

The Estelline Public Library is housed in the two-story brick City Hall building on Main Street. It consists of two large

rooms; the front room is used for adult books and reference works, the back room is a reading room and for juvenile books.

The first Library Board, Mrs. L. J. Abbott, Reverend Flynn, W. E. Whittemore, Reverend Spittell, and Mrs. Alden Calef met for organization September 21, 1908. Subscribers collected \$110 for an outlay of \$102.25. We purchased one table, 1% dozen chairs, 3 bookcases, a stove, two gasoline lamps and stationery.

A public meeting was called in February, 1909, to complete arrangements and the Library was finally opened in May, 1909, with Air. Smith as first librarian. Most of the books, reference works and maps were donated by local people, Pierre Library and the Railroad. A library benefit was held in July of that year at which \$27.30 was cleared to be used for the purchase of books.

Electric lights were installed by the city in 1912, and in the spring of 1913, book stacks and a magazine rack were built.

Semi-annual appropriations from the city were received to carry on the library work amounting to around \$250 a year.

A Library Tag Day was held in November, 1916, netting \$76.60. This money was used to purchase a large floor clock which is still "ticking" efficient duty.

The first appointed and paid librarian was hired in July 1920. Mrs. Sophia Burton held this position until 1926. (Up until 1920, a member of the Board was acting librarian.) The duties included, besides the desk duties, marking the book spines with the call numbers, mending books and keeping the rooms in order.

Mrs. Clair Carpenter served as city librarian from 1926 until 1958-32 years of efficient service to the community.

At present, we have over 3,000 books with 67 added this year.

The trend toward greater use of the Library the last two or three years is definite. The number of card holders has increased and the requests for specific books is more frequent.

EUREKA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Eureka, South Dakota
Mrs. E. Shulkoski, Librarian

The library dates back to the year 1932, at which time an appropriate resolution was adopted by the local P.T.A. to sponsor a library,—to be known as the Eureka Public Library.

The first committee and Library Board members were: Miss Joanne Gildt, Mrs. Henry Zenk, Mrs. Oscar Elster, Mrs. Edwin Neuharth, Miss Helen Von Like. The South Dakota Library Commission was called upon for their free services. There were donations from our citizens of books and periodicals. The drive netted 250 books.

No funds were available the first year to pay a Librarian and volunteers gave unstintingly of their time and services to make the library a success. The Lions club, now the Chamber of Commerce, donated the use of their Club Room for the library. In 1934, the City Council voted to pay a librarian and have given the library financial support since then.

That the library was a great success has proof from the fact that the yearly circulation of 1941 was 1976 volumes (no circulation record was reported before that); and that in 1960 it had increased to 28,819.

Present board members are: Mrs. Walt Schmitz, Chairman; Mrs. Ann Bauer, Secretary; Mrs. Elial Harr, Treasurer; Reverend Knecht, Mrs. John Smith, and Mrs. Darlene Newharth.

The library is now located in the new auditorium which are nice quarters and is easily accessible to the patron. Mrs. E. Shulkoski is the librarian.

FAULKTON CITY LIBRARY

Faultkton, South Dakota
Mrs. Winifred Conlon, Librarian

A petition was circulated in 1929, for a city library; the petitions were signed and given to the County Commissioners who, because of financial conditions, tabled

them. So, the Business Women organized to sponsor this, our city library. They also served as librarians. Hiram Beebe of Ipswich gave the first fifty books. Other books were donated. Our first library was located over the Faulk County Land and Title Company on Main Street.

The Library Building was donated to the City by the Women's Relief Corps.

There was no paid librarian until W.P.A. days. They also sponsored a book-mending project. Josephine Turner, County Superintendent; Luella Stickney, County Nurse; and Leora Lewis, State Librarian, were active in starting the Library.

Over 12,000 books have been donated or purchased. The Memorial Shelf contains some of the better books and new books have been purchased from time to time when funds were available. One of the projects was substations, where books were loaned to schools to be circulated from there.

Summer Reading Programs have been carried on each summer for about 35 children. For this, the State Library aids with more titles. This is usually followed by a picnic. All of this work has been carried on by business women.

FLANDREAU PUBLIC LIBRARY

Flandreau, South Dakota
Mrs. Blanche McFarland, Librarian

The public library was started in Flandreau in 1915, sponsored by the Federation of Women's clubs, an organization including at that time five Flandreau clubs. Gifts of books from local organizations and individuals formed a nucleus for a library. For some years the library continued by the efforts of local club women.

In 1929, petitions were circulated for county support for the library. In 1930, a county allowance was made and county funds have been appropriated annually since that date. It is now a county-wide library.

Originally, it was located in the Moody Court House, but after a short time, the library was moved to the City Hall of Flandreau, where it remained until 1949.

Then it was moved to the new city building, which had just been built on east Main Street. The dedication was held February 22, 1949, with Judge George Rice as the principal speaker. Mrs. Harold Tillman, at that time a member of the State Library Commission, gave a short talk and then introduced the librarian, Mrs. Blanche McFarland. She in turn introduced the members of the library board: Mrs. Robert Dailey, Sr., Mrs. Warren Cowles, Mrs. W. S. Henry, John McNeil, and Judge George Rice.

Outstanding in appointments of the library is the picture, "The First Furrow," given as a memorial by Mrs. James Bigelow and the joint generosity of the artist Harvey Dunn. There were many other donations, furniture and money also being included.

The members of the present library board are: Mrs. Myrtle Ehrichs, Chairman; Mrs. Edwin Rudd, Mrs. Marie Campbell, Judge George A. Rice, and Mr. Morris Hasvald. Meetings are held once a month with Mrs. Blanche McFarland, librarian and secretary.

EMMA BURNHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Frederick, South Dakota
Miss Marie Rush, Librarian

The Emma Burnham Public Library was opened to the public the first time on November 26, 1910. It was equipped with books and magazines donated by the members of the Alpha Circle Study Club and other friends.

For nine years the Alpha Circle supported the Library by giving teas, dances and presenting plays, and also by individual donations. Finally, enough books were acquired to legally ask for tax support from the town.

It was necessary to circulate a petition which had to be brought up at the town election. This carried by a large majority. The Town Board appointed Mrs. Emma Burnham as the first Librarian. The Library moved to its present location in the basement of the City Auditorium in March of 1952, with Miss Marie Rush as librarian.

Our book stock now totals 6,500. The present Library Board is: Mrs. Christian Reiff, President; Mrs. Christiana Steig, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. A. K. Anderson, Chairman of Town Board; Mr. Jensen, High School Principal.

GREGORY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Gregory, South Dakota
Mrs. S. J. McMeen, Librarian

Gregory, a thriving second-class city of approximately eighteen hundred inhabitants, lies thirty-five miles west of the eastern border of the historically famous Rosebud Country. It is bounded on the South by highway 18 and on the West by highway 47.

The country which surrounds it is a populous area of diversified farming amid rolling prairie contour which makes excellent grazing land for numerous herds of dairy and stock cattle.

The city, incorporated in 1908 and deriving its name from Senator S. A. Gregory bid fair, from the first, to make steady progress. Early construction housed general stores, barber shops, churches, recreational platforms and old-time saloons and have all given way to modern buildings in the past few years.

In the year 1909, the Gregory Woman's Club was federated. The personnel consisted of a group of women who saw the need for keeping abreast of the times and of providing reading material for the youth, who, in this bustling western locality, did not have access to libraries. These women collected books and bought books with the money earned from various activities and then asked the town council to "house" them. After a short time, the project was given up.

Early in 1926, however, the project was revived. After much persuasion, the Council agreed that a small space in the City Hall could be temporarily enclosed and used as a library. Members of the Council felt sure that this "ladies' fad" would grow old soon, and that the partitions could be removed then, and the building made use of as before. They did not reckon on their inspiration.

From many homes came all that could be spared in the way of cupboards, shelving, and other lumber needed to provide book space. Under this arrangement our library continued to function for twenty years. Members of our club gave free service in order to keep the library open. Various ways of making money were carried on with more books purchased and still more donated. Soon the club could boast of a six-thousand-volume library serving a radius of forty miles in all directions from our city. Yet it was still housed in congested quarters. We just had to have more room.

A good public library had always been the dream of all the members of the Gregory Woman's Club. At this time the members realized that their dream had to materialize. Work on their project must begin as soon as possible. For the "reading public," especially the youth, needed access to a good public library in this town and trade territory. Fiction and non-fiction book stock was ample, but we needed a place to house the books and, at the same time, to accomodate the patrons with the necessary reading room area.

On March 18th, 1948, Mayor J. B. Dyer appeared before the Club and generously offered to donate the concrete blocks and labor to construct a building 22 X 48 ft. A short time later, the Gregory Masonic Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 158 agreed to donate a lot and offered the Gregory Woman's Club a lease to the same. This lease was signed by the Club president and secretary on February 15, 1949. The lot is located on Church Street, just one block from the heart of the business district.

This was taking place when only the small sum of five dollars was in the library building fund-a donation from a local resident. Nothing more was done until the latter part of June. Action was then taken in favor of members sponsoring and operating a food stand during the celebration held in town the 3rd and 4th of July. A committee was appointed to plan and carry out this operation. When the day arrived things were in readiness, workers were on hand, the patronage was generous and when all bills were paid, the sum of \$643.48 was added to the building fund. This amount was an incentive for

further action, so when the regular club activities were resumed in the fall of 1949, coin jars were placed in local business places during the month of October and these netted \$75.55. This was a small sum, but with the idea of a new library building as an interest, we still had the incentive to raise additional funds. So the club membership was divided into three groups -each group to help raise funds in various ways to swell this new building fund for the Gregory Public Library. Various activities were carried on; among them: raffles, cake walks, bake sales, Stanley parties, candy and apron sales, bridge parties, and individual piggy banks. When the club year closed in May of 1949, the three groups had earned a total of \$853.49.

Since the need for the new library building was so urgent, it was not difficult to interest other organizations in the project. Circulars were sent to the various organizations, such as the lodges, American Legion, and Church organizations, and their response was generous. The local Commercial Club gave us two sizeable gifts for surveys which we conducted for them.

It requires a lot of time, money and effort to construct a building-especially one that is to be a symbol of service to the community for years to come-so the club members decided in March of 1949 to launch a real fund-raising campaign. The town was divided into sections and then canvassed for funds. At the conclusion of this drive \$1,995.26 was added to the building fund.

July 4th, 1949, we again operated a stand and netted \$419.07. A float depicting characters from story-book land was entered in the parade and we earned the first prize of \$25. Proceeds of a baseball game in the amount of \$216.25 were given our fund. And, last but not least, was a generous gift of \$1,000 from the City Council.

Excavation started the early part of August, 1949. By the middle of the month the basement walls were erected and from then on progress was quite rapid, the walls gradually taking shape and a filling made to grade level.

Carpenters were now employed, the main floor was laid, the windows glazed;

plate glass was used in the two large front windows and a double strength glass in the side windows. Aluminum window frames with a combination storm sash and screens were used both upstairs and down. When the roof was ready to be shingled, volunteer labor was secured. A good grade of aluminum eave spouting was used on the eaves.

When the work on the interior of the building was started, much of the rough work was done by the club members themselves. An asphalt foundation waterproofing was used in the basement and bondex was used upstairs. The building—both upstairs and down—has been insulated with the best grade of rock wool insulation. A local electrician was secured to do the job of wiring. The upstairs was all plastered and attractive light fixtures installed. Hard wood floors were laid.

The interior of the library proper is painted a restful green and all book shelving in an accent green. Venetian blinds are the same shade of green as the walls.

The book stock was weeded and all books reaccessioned and the library stock of 6,500 books was moved into its new home in January of 1951. Open house was held in February of the same year.

We have been in this new location and home now for over ten (10) years, and have shown an increased circulation each year. On April 22, 1961, we again held open house in connection with National Library Week. Eva M. McMeen (Mrs. S. J.) has acted as librarian since June, 1941.

Members of the present Library Board are Mrs. Otto Schueneman, Chairman; Mrs. Floyd Devish, Co-Chairman; Mrs. J. B. Dyer; Mrs. Ben Siren; Mrs. Emil Cerny, and, Mrs. Violet Coleman.

HOT SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hot Springs, South Dakota
Mrs. Mary Miners, Librarian

At the request of the Shakespeare and Travelers Clubs, a mass meeting was called in the old city hall on March 19, 1898. Dr. Charles Hargens presided.

The object of this meeting was to take steps toward the organization of a public library. At this meeting a committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws, and on April 16th a permanent organization was perfected. Mrs. Fred T. Evans was elected the first president, and a committee appointed to solicit subscriptions for membership.

The first book committee appointed to select books was composed of the pastors of the several churches and the president of the Black Hills College, Professor Lepner.

The room that is now the city jail was donated by the City Council, and paid our librarian fifty cents a week to keep it open on Saturday afternoons. The Shakespeare Club paid half the janitor's salary, which was fifty cents a month, for the privilege of meeting there. The room was back of the post office. If anyone wanted a book during the week, he handed them the key, and they went in and helped themselves.

A book social was given and the citizens of the town were requested to come and bring a book. It was a success. We received "57 Varieties," from books of Theology to old Congressional Records.

Just about this time someone had a very brilliant idea and suggested we write Mr. Andrew Carnegie and inform him we could use \$50,000, but, since this didn't seem to appeal to him, we incorporated with a capitol stock of \$5,000. We didn't sell all the stock. The things we did to raise money would take all day to mention. In 1906, the City Council asked us to vacate the room. We moved into the Harlon block and had to pay \$25 per month rent.

A petition was sent to the City Council asking them to submit to the voters a proposition to vote on a tax levy of one-half-mill for the maintenance of a library. The Council tabled the petition. A large "body" of women marched into the Council Room. (You must remember the women couldn't vote then.) The result was that the Council was "very meek" and willing to submit it to the voters. It carried!

In 1913, just twelve years after the first request, we received \$10,000 from the Carnegie Fund. The building was completed July 1, 1914, at the cost of \$10,750. We raised the \$750 and also \$120 for the cost of the site.

In 1958, a room in the basement was prepared for a children's room. This was accomplished by assistance from the Lion's Club.

The following list of librarians is taken from the old minute books. The resignations were never mentioned in the minutes, only the appointments, of the new librarians. The library is very proud that Marian Johnson Castle, author of so many Colorado novels, is on this list.

1901-Mrs. Basford
 1902-Mr. Eckstein
 1904-Rev. Long took care of the library
 1906-Miss Mable Asmotherly
 1906-Dec.-Mrs. Knight
 1907-June Mable Asmotherly
 1910-Miss Neva
 1911-Miss Annie McRoberts
 1914-July-Sue Asmotherly
 1916-September-Theresa Clark
 1917-Marian Johnson (Marian Castle)
 1918-May-Edith Stockton
 1919-February-Miss Allen
 1919-August-H. Della Ellinwood
 1919-October-Miss Eleanor Olney
 1922-Rhea Smith Roth
 1944-Mary S. Miners

There were 15 librarians the first 24 years and two the last 39 years.

-Mrs. Grace Gillespie, a member of the Hot Springs Library Board for forty years.

HOWARD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Howard, South Dakota
 Mrs. E. W. Gehring, Librarian

Taken from the 75th Anniversary Celebration Edition of the Miner County Pioneer, August 10, 1956, we find that the Howard Public Library lays claim to the distinction of being the oldest chartered library in South Dakota with continuous operation through the years. The Charter was granted on the 8th day of January

1886 by M. L. McCormick, Secretary of Dakota Territory.

H. W. McKee, C. S. Milham, E. M. Oleson, and Lizzie Bronson comprised the First Library Board. An annual membership fee of \$1.00 per member and entertainments provided funds for the organization. Mrs. H. H. Winden let them use her parlor as a reading room and the ladies took turns acting as librarian.

Before the end of 1886, the library was housed in the east room of the Methodist Church and Carrie Milham was librarian. A small building was then used as a library. Mr. Boles was appointed to build a suitable book case. The salary of the librarian was 25 cents per week.

A fire on September 26, 1892 swept away the Public Library, burning all the contents including 400 volumes, the large bookcase, stove, table, lamps, chairs, etc., with no insurance. (It had expired two weeks before, and the agent had neglected to notify them.) Undaunted by their loss, the Board met October 18th at the Wheeler House to arrange for another room and to call in the eleven books that were out!

A charity ball netted \$63 for the library funds. On January 21, 1893 the library opened on its present location-a square brick building a block off Main Street. At that time the south half was used for a city jail. The north half, separated by a thick wall, housed the fire apparatus, the City Council Rooms and the library. On August 22, 1912, it was decided to establish a reading room by having some magazines and papers to remain in the library for a month and *then* to be loaned out as books. The library was also to be kept open Sunday afternoons.

The first magazines and papers selected for Reading Room were: The American Boy, McClure, World Book, Everybody's, Opportunity, Youth Companion, and Country Gentleman.

On January 17, 1902, correspondence was begun with Senator Kittridge with regard to a Carnegie Library. This matter was under consideration for several years. By September 19, 1914, a committee of townspeople was appointed to assist in soliciting funds with which to buy a building site

for a public library. Lots were purchased south of the E. M. Mumford home on Main Street. Several years later the Carnegie Library for Howard was in the definite planning stage when our great benefactor passed away and all grants were cancelled.

In 1937, the City Council Room was moved to another location and the library now has all of the old brick building with its two rooms crowded with shelves of books well-used by both children and adults. Our gracious librarian, Mrs. E. W. Gehring, helps the circulation by seeing that the right book and the right person meet.

The Board of Trustees for the Howard Public Library is appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. Members of the present Board of Trustees are: Mrs. E. M. Mumford, President; Mrs. A. B. Gehring, Secretary; Mrs. Theo. Hanson, Dr. L. W. Ruste, Mr V J Protsch

According to the June 30, 1936, issue of the South Dakota Library Bulletin the Howard Public Library is thought to be the oldest in the state.

HUDSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hudson, South Dakota
Miss Lois Pierce, Librarian

The Hudson Public Library was organized in 1922. It was sponsored by the Women's Study Club. Mrs. H. L. Fitch and Mrs. Horace Waldorf served on the first Library Board To promote this project we had to raise money and that created a problem. However, by candy sales, basket ball games, donations and receiving gift books we resorted to interesting ways, too numerous to mention. The Library thus became a reality in the old Community Building. At first the various members of the club took turns in serving as librarians. When it was decided that a permanent librarian was needed, Mrs. Louise D. Wilson became the first to fill this position.

The first circulating library was obtained from the Free Library Commission at Pierre in 1923. They would send us a loan of 50 to 80 books for a period of six months. The Library Board was glad for

this service and used it for several years.

In the spring of 1925 the city voted a one-mill levy for the support of the library. The same levy exists today for the purpose of buying books and paying the Librarians salary.

Our library has grown, so a larger and more modern building was provided. The city of Hudson purchased the former Coleman Building and, with the aid of the PWA Project, the building was renovated. New shelves, reading tables, bulletin boards, magazine racks, and filing cabinets were installed. After a complete cataloging was made the 1,951 volumes in the library was moved into the building. Then we had an Open House on January 22, 1938. About two years previous, the American Legion Auxiliary in 1936 joined the Study Club in sponsoring the project. At the present time two members of the Study Club and two members of the Auxiliary compose the Library Board.

Mrs. Jay Angle served as Librarian from 1944 until 1954. The present Librarian, Miss Lois Pierce has served since. Mrs. Harry Miller, Chairman; Mrs. T. E. Quarnstrom, Secretary; and Mrs. Lyle Marshall, Mrs. Gene Ingebrightson, Miss Lois Pierce comprise the Library Board at the present.

The Library is an asset to Hudson and the community. It not only serves the local adults and children but also extends to homes and schools in the rural area.

Mrs. Harry Miller

HURLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hurley, South Dakota
Mrs. S. Gering, Librarian

The Hurley Public Library at this time is functioning for its thirty-first year. The Woman's Club of Hurley was organized in 1927 and the library became their main project from 1930 to the present date. Mrs. Lynn B. Vaughan and Mrs. Harry W. Elliott were the instigators and the first librarians.

Mrs. Menhold Christensen became librarian in 1934 and acted in that capacity until her death August 5, 1959. For the next year or so, the member'; of the Wo-

man's Club took over. Now Mrs. Sid Ger-
ing has been hired as librarian. The library
is open on Saturday only. Children's books
and current adult fiction are in greatest
demand and the total number of books
available is well over 1,500.

A library board of three members, elec-
ted alternately from the club membership,
attends to the business affairs and plans
fund-raising projects for purchasing cur-
rent books and paying other expenses
during the year.

Many and unique are the enjoyable ways
we raise this money. In the club each
year, a contest selling reader's cards
helps buy new books. Children's reader's
cards are ten cents and adult's, twenty-
five. The city of Hurley furnishes the
room, heat, and light.

The first library opened in the Auxiliary
room of the Legion Hall; then moved, first
to Hurley Leader Annex and later to the
balcony in Nelson's General store. The
highlight of all the years was celebrated
June 30, 1953, when Open House was held
in the library's own permanent quarters
in the south room of the new City Hall.
Dedication was at that time.

HURON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Huron, South Dakota
Miss Blanche Battin, Librarian

The Huron library had its earliest be-
ginnings in a reading room of the WCTU
and YMCA in 1883. A year later, a Library
Association was organized and for several
years conducted a loan library in office
buildings until in 1901-1902 there was a
move for a city library and the city coun-
cil agreed to furnish a room in the City
Hall Building. The Library Association put
on a home talent play and, in other ways,
made money to support the library.

In 1903 the 19th Century and the Fort-
nightly clubs organized a Library Associa-
tion to take over the work of the original
library association. Their library was
opened to the public April, 1903, with a
membership of 275 people, \$288 in the
treasury, and 750 books with 113 more
books on order.

By May 1905 these two clubs organized
a local Federation of Women's Clubs to
assist in the maintenance of the Huron
Public Library. In 1906 the library was
again moved to rooms in the I.O.O.F.
building where the rent was paid by the
City Council and a reading room was
opened. The librarian at this time was
Mrs. Mary Coshun.

In 1907 the City Council was petitioned
to take steps to secure a Carnegie Library
for the city. By January 10, 1908, the
City Commissioners had accepted the
Andrew Carnegie offer for \$10,000 for the
purpose of erecting a library building and
agreed to maintain in the building of a
free public library at a cost of not less
than \$1,000 per year. This library was first
opened to the public September 3, 1909.

In January 1914, the first book com-
mittee was appointed under the new state
law for library control and the first
Board of Trustees was appointed October
4, 1915. They were John C. Madsen, Mrs.
John Greene, Mrs. W. H. Maul, Dr. C. B.
Alford, and Senator Crawford.

Throughout the years there have been
four unsuccessful attempts to increase the
size of the present building: 1924, 1938,
1945, and 1959.

In 1933 an outside entrance was built
for the basement children's room and the
periodical stacks were rearranged to al-
low more space for the children's depart-
ment.

Since the early 1930's, the library has
maintained branch loan libraries for the
children in most of the grade schools, with
a library staff member to circulate the
books. Loan service to hospital patients
was also begun about that time and in
1949 a ceiling book projector was added
to the service.

In 1942, it was necessary to place the
newspapers and older periodicals in stor-
age, first in a rented storeroom and then
at the City Hall. In 1949, the furnace was
converted from coal to oil so the furnace
room could also be used for periodical
stacks and as a work-room for the staff.
In 1949, the library also began to micro-
film the local newspapers and purchased
a microfilm reader. By 1954, the filming

was brought up-to-date and a rear stairway landing was converted into a micro-film room. It was necessary to dispose of the periodicals in storage at the City Hall but by 1959 the library began to replace many of them by the purchase of film.

By 1957, we had to dispense with the tables at one end of the reading reference area because of need for more shelving space, and put in two book stacks to take care of the accumulated books. By 1960, the library discontinued buying fiction and popular non-fiction books due to lack of shelving space and began supplying these books through a rental service.

Librarians throughout the years have been Mrs. J. Coshun, Miss Elizabeth Purvess, Miss Alice B. Story, Miss Mabel Rieley, Miss Harriet Dickson, Miss Caroline Orvis, and Miss Blanche Battin.

Huron has been host to the South Dakota Library Association in 1909, 1910, 1920, 1932, 1937, and 1950.

IPSWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ipswich, South Dakota
Lillian Witz, Librarian

One of the pioneer Library Associations in the State of South Dakota was founded in 1886 by the Ladies Library Association when most communities were not thinking about libraries but rather of how to wrestle a living from the dry soil.

At that time Ipswich was a railroad terminal and there were quite a number of young men, who, when off duty, had nothing to do and "time hung heavy on their hands." The ladies' objective was to open a room where these young men could go to read and spend time profitably. Temporary buildings were used but in 1895 the building then in use burned with all the books and records destroyed by fire. Another fire occurred in 1898 with only 75 books saved.

At that time, efforts were made to get a Carnegie Library for Ipswich, but lack of financial backing to match the Carnegie donation caused the project to fail.

About that time the first librarian was appointed and the library was open on Saturday afternoons.

In February of 1904, the City Council decided to give the library some support and they set aside \$100.00 for its financing.

Through a lecture course and offering of such plays as "If I Were King," "In Old Virginny" and "Miles Stones," by home talent, and by giving socials, selling baking powder and flavorings, the library kept growing and in 1919 the city took over its support.

Although most all of the members of the original library association are gone, their dream of having a nice building in which to house the books had come to pass. In 1930 the Marcus P. Beebe Memorial Library was dedicated and the building presented to the city by Mrs. Marcus P. Beebe. At that time the name was changed from the Ipswich Public Library to The Marcus P. Beebe Memorial Library. Present at the dedication were Governor Warren E. Green, Honorable Doan Robinson, President of the State Historical Society, and Miss Leora Lewis, State Librarian.

Mrs. Beebe stated in her presentation speech that, in erecting this library building, it was the desire of Mr. Beebe that "Ipswich should be a place in which it is easy to be good and hard to do wrong."

One outstanding event in that first year was the meeting of the South Dakota State Library Association which was held in Aberdeen. The last session of that meeting was held in the Marcus P. Beebe Memorial Library in Ipswich.

Much more could be written of the history of this library but as this is to be a short history, it will end here.

IRENE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Irene, South Dakota
Mrs. A. E. Diefendorf, Librarian

The Irene Public Library is only two years old, so we do not have much to contribute as far as history goes.

There are about 2,000 books in the library. Among these are some books by South Dakota authors, such as:

"Trena" by Inga Hansen Dickerson, of Irene.

"Gumbo Trails" by Laura Kirley McAllister, of Ft. Pierre

"The Spirit Trail" by Kate and Virgil Boyles of Yankton

"Giants of the Earth" by Ole Rolvaag, of the Sioux Falls area.

Mrs. A. E. Diefendorf is the librarian, with Mrs. Dexter Gunderson, Mrs. T. W. Diefendorf, and Mrs. Arnold Moen as Trustees.

The library was sponsored and is promoted by the Irene Civic Club. It has grown steadily. It is partially financed by the town and partly by private donations and gifts. Books and memorials are received for memorials.

The librarian and other officials serve without compensation, and services of the library are entirely free to the community.

WOMEN'S WELFARE CLUB PUBLIC LIBRARY

Kennebec, South Dakota

Mrs. Hazel Houchins, Librarian

The Woman's Welfare Club Library of Kennebec was established in 1934 with an assortment of books borrowed from the State Library at Pierre. New books were added from time to time both by purchase and donation. The library was housed in any available space such as offices and stores in the beginning, and the club members took turns acting as librarian. The Town Board later permitted the books to be kept in the building used for the city offices and during the depression and W.P.A. days we were furnished with almost a full-time librarian, Mrs. Hanna Johnson. Following that period the books have been kept in the city building and the Town Board has allocated funds to pay a librarian for service several afternoons a week. Mrs. Anna Lien was in charge of the books for a number of years. Now Mrs. Hazel Houchin is librarian.

In 1950, M. Q. Sharpe made a donation of 250 books, in a bookcase known as the "Anna E. Sharp Memorial Library." In 1953, William Rigney donated a collection of 1,000 books, a very valuable collection

covering especially subjects of travel, history, poetry and religion. The Rigney Brothers were pioneer ranchers. One spent his winters traveling. The other kept the home fires burning on the ranch. The one at home traveled vicariously by purchasing and reading books of travel. The Traveler's choice of reading was poetry and art books. Other contributions of books have been made and also some cash memorials.

In April, 1959, Kennebec suffered a serious fire. Several business places were razed by the fire, including the building housing the library. Through the efforts of volunteers most of the books were saved. However, the shelving and other furnishings were gone and there was no suitable place to be used as a library.

Through 1959 and into 1960 the books were housed in an "abandoned" filling station. In the fall of 1960 Harry Caslin, a civic-minded citizen of the Kennebec community, promoted a project to erect a new Community Library. A building committee was formed; funds were solicited from the people in the Kennebec community and plans were drawn. The building was completed in May and the library books moved into the new location.

The building has now been turned over to the town of Kennebec. Part of it is used for a public library. All of the furnishings-books, tables, chairs, and book shelves are the property of the Kennebec Woman's Welfare Club.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Lake Andes, South Dakota

Mrs. Martha Zachariasen, Librarian

Local citizens and people of the community worked hard to get a Carnegie Library for Lake Andes. W. H. Gunsul circulated petitions and wrote many letters. Howard C. Miller and wife, Maggie deeded a lot to the City to be used for library purposes only on November 15, 1912, as recorded in Book 35 at the Courthouse. The library was built of brick with oak woodwork and floors. A hedge and many trees were planted. The city purchased a lot adjoining so that the grounds are more spacious,

The city levy in 1913 was 5 per cent or \$500 a year for library expenses. The first Library Board was composed of Judge H. H. Exon, M. H. Hanna, Mrs. F. A. Anderson, and Mrs. M. A. Jones as Secretary. Vera Edgerton was the first librarian and received \$10 a month salary. Maud Jones was librarian from 1917 to 1919 at \$25 a month. Mrs. Lester and Mrs. Isaacson served as substitutes.

In 1921, Judge Exon, Clara Anderson, treasurer, Mrs. Dale Savage, M. H. Hanna were board members. Vera Edgerton was again librarian. Mrs. Savage has been on the board continuously since then.

In 1923, Hattie Engel became librarian and served until 1937. Miss Engel's salary was \$25 and \$5 for janitor. From 1937 to 1939, Ida Langeland was librarian. In 1939, Florence Holden became librarian until 1943. At that time, the city levy was reduced to \$332 a year for expenses. Grace Patrick served from 1943 to July, 1949.

Mayor Stedronsky appointed a new board as the old board was very inactive. Clara Anderson had been treasurer all this time.

Mrs. Martha Zachariasen was appointed chairman with Mrs. Savage as secretary. Other members were: Mrs. Rose Wheeler and Mrs. Andrew Hyland. In 1949, Bertha Jenkins became librarian. She served until October, 1954, when she passed away suddenly. Mrs. Zachariasen resigned to become librarian and Mayor Stedronsky appointed Mabel Holden as chairman and Mrs. Wayne Feeney as a new member. All this time the library was open on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons and one hour in the evening on Saturday. In the 1920's an attempt was made to have the library open on Sunday afternoons but it did not succeed.

Many books were given to the new library, especially by W. H. Gunsul and the Reverend Harry Hardman. We now have over 5,000 books and have a budget of \$250 for books and magazines. Various clubs donate books from time to time. Civic Club has given several hundred. The Fidelis Club has had the library as their project and has given books every year.

In 1949, a new oil furnace was put in and school was held there for about two years for the fifth grade, while a new school was being built and was not ready until 1950. We have about 25 magazines and their circulation is very good. School children come to the library for books for both reports and research on many subjects they need for their school work. Many new patrons are coming from Pickstown. We have received many compliments on our library and collection of books.

LAKE PRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lake Preston, South Dakota

Mrs. Theresa Brookshire, Librarian

The Lake Preston Public Library was founded November 13, 1928, under the sponsorship of the Civic Improvement Club and the City Council.

Mary E. Brennan was instrumental in getting a library started while she was Superintendent of Schools in Lake Preston, as she realized the need of a library. When the library became a reality, she served as its first librarian and continued as such for thirteen years, until her death in 1941.

The first Library Board was two members from the Civic Club, one member from the City Council, and the Superintendent of Schools, who were Mrs. R. A. Evans, Mrs. W. Q. Brennan, Joseph Funk, and Superintendent A. A. Carelson. These members served until 1934. Then the following were Board members: Mrs. J. H. Lloyd, Mrs. G. H. Maxam, and Dr. E. K. Hesley

At the time of Miss Brennan's death, Mrs. M. L. Erb was appointed librarian and served until the spring of 1943. Then Mrs. Stella Barlow was appointed. Board members at this time were: Mrs. E. K. Hesby, Mrs. William Paterson, and Mrs. Kohlwey, and Harold McLain of the City Council.

Mrs. Barlow retired in the winter of 1954 and Theresa L. Brookshire was appointed and is still serving.

The present Library Board is Mrs. Hazel Baldwin, Chairman, Mrs. Achsa Beck, and Frank Larson from the City Council.

The library is supported through a city levy or appropriation, and donations. The library receives \$25 worth of books annually from the Civic Club.

The library is now located in the City Hall since 1947. It is open on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 to 6:00 and on Saturday afternoons the same hours and 7:30 to 9:00 in the evening.

The library contains about 3,500 volumes, many of which are outdated. The Library receives Book Loans from the Free Library Commission and exchanges them periodically. With the city and Civic Club donating \$75, books are purchased with it.

HOMESTAKE LIBRARY

Lead, South Dakota

Dorette Darling, Librarian

Many industrial and research companies have libraries today, but the Homestake Library is unique in its extension of service to the entire community. Without question, the character and policies of our library have been affected by its history.

The original book collection and services of the librarian were the gift of Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst to the city on Christmas Day in 1894. Maintained as part of her program of philanthropies until her death, and afterwards by her estate, the library served Lead residents for thirty-one years.

In 1925, Homestake Mining Company acquired the books, art objects, and equipment from Mrs. Hearst's estate. For the past thirty-six years, the company has supported library service as one facet of their schedule of benefits for employees and the community-at-large. No tax is levied on Lead property for its maintenance, as is now the case in most public libraries.

The library was first housed in the Miners Union Hall building. Two years later it was moved to rooms over the

Hearst Mercantile Store, where it remained until 1914, when the Recreation Building was erected. New furniture and equipment was purchased at that time, most of which is still in use. However, the original circular charging desk from 1894 serves today.

The present quarters of the library are on the second floor of the Recreation Building, now called the Homestake Club. Modernization was accomplished during extensive remodelling in 1949 and 1950.

Books on the Black Hills, South Dakota, and West have been drawn from the general shelves and brought together in the old office, now called the South Dakota room, which is situated near the charging desk. Because a number of these are rare volumes, this move affords opportunity for supervision, as well as convenience in their use. Approximately 5,000 clippings, pamphlets and maps are stored in the South Dakota Room, including two file drawers of state items.

Examination of the general shelves reveals that mining references and related subjects have been provided in generous quantity over the years. Three other subject fields reflect the special character and interests of the community.

Under Mrs. Hearst's sponsorship, music was an important factor of the library's list of activities. Opera and oratorio scores, books on music, collections of songs and instrumental selections have been supplemented by gift and purchase.

The early day population of Lead with its large number of immigrant families had language and education problems. Needs of night school students, as well as provision of recreation reading in the original tongues of employees, brought about the addition of a foreign language section unusual in a book collection no larger than our library. Eleven languages are represented in over a thousand volumes.

The age of the library, and the foresight of librarians over the sixty-seven years of its existence, have contributed to the strength of the Black Hills and South Dakota division mentioned in the previous

paragraph. This historical information will be supplemented by the microfilm files of early day Lead and Deadwood papers which are being acquired in installments.

The size of the book collection has grown from about 2,000 volumes in 1898 to the present total of over 29,000. Inventory and weeding out of obsolete books is carried on periodically.

If one is curious, the avocations and personal interests of librarians over the years can be traced as reflected on the bookshelves. Certainly the travel opportunities, provided for the early librarians by Mrs. Hearst, have marked the history and art shelves. The previously mentioned emphasis on musical abilities is evident. Continuing interest in drama is obvious in the literature division.

First of the librarians was Mrs. Ferrie, succeeded in 1896 by Mrs. Ford, who stayed until 1898, when Mrs. John Tegarty became librarian. Mr. W. J. Whitmire served from 1900 to 1902. Mrs. Julia Con-cannon was librarian from 1902 to 1907. Miss Agnes Cole's short term was followed in 1907, by Miss Katherine Gold, who served until 1909. Miss Katherine Steele became librarian in 1909 and worked until 1915. Mrs. Esther Thompson completed 1916 as librarian. Mrs. N. L. Snyder was in charge in 1917. Miss M. Livingstone was librarian from 1935 to 1944 Mrs. Muriel Finola followed Miss Kellar, staying until 1947. Dorette Darling was appointed in June 1947 and is the present librarian.

Employees of the company have used the library in recent years for general and technical reference, for information useful in purchase of office references, for arranging inter-library loans of hard-to-obtain materials, for subscription assistance, and for historical information pertaining to the company and the county.

Adding and discarding of volumes are pursued in consideration of the purposes of the library: to provide information for company personnel, to offer recreational reading for all ages, to supplement school and college book resources, and in general, to provide the services expected of a public library.

To work toward these objectives, the library staff will add books to present

holdings considering merit, probable use, and balance of the collection; will call on the resources of other libraries in the Black Hills through inter-library loan; and will use the books of the State Library in the same manner. In addition, membership in the Bibliographical Center at Denver makes it possible to borrow research books, magazines or microfilm from libraries in far distant locations.

Reference questions with which the staff is confronted vary from the life of Li Po to "food for turtles," from the "kind of buttons on the shirt in which they buried Wild Bill Hickock" to the "chemical composition of gases given off when brass is made," from "what kind of poetry is a Kyrielle?" to "An appropriate design for a front porch, combining wood and wrought iron."

Books borrowed from other libraries have dealt with medical aspects of silicosis, psychiatry, hypnotism, the Kensington rune stone, Hawaiian folklore and space ships, to name a few subjects.

Books loaned to other libraries have included novels in German, Spanish and French, a New Testament in Greek, books on Black Hills history, the reading of young people, commercial art, Calamity Jane, alcoholism and a variety of western and detective fiction.

There are those who say Lead residents take the Homestake Library for granted. Perhaps they do; it has been here longer than many of its patrons.

However, the annual per capita use of library books has been for many years from two to three books per person over the national per capita figure. Furthermore, the staff will try to keep the library a live, useful institution and will increase the strength and breadth of its resources as the progress of the Company permits.

LEMMON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lemmon, South Dakota
Mrs. Judith Riis, Librarian

At a meeting of the Woman's Club of Lemmon held on April 21, 1919, the matter of starting a library was taken up.

A committee composed of the following members: Mrs. Kate Smith, Mrs. Myrtle Smith, and Mrs. Lulu Mork, were appointed to get ideas and suggestions for a library and report to the club in the fall.

It was definitely decided to establish a library at the November 4, 1919 meeting. The committee reported that the Commissioner's room in the basement of the First National Bank building was available for its use. Shelving and a padlock were purchased. A traveling library was ordered from the South Dakota Free Library Commission. A committee was appointed to make up a list of books suitable for the library, and also a committee to take charge of the library. A bill of \$17.40 for 15 books purchased from Macomber's Pharmacy of Lemmon was presented. The members were assessed 90c each to pay for the books. In the Annual Report for the year the Secretary reported that "this venture has been very successful and bids fair to become a permanent institution of Lemmon." In May, 1920, a bookshower was held which had been advertised to the public. A reception committee was on hand and refreshments were served. The records show that a meeting was planned to organize a library aid but apparently it didn't materialize. That year the members catalogued the books and turned the library over to the city. The City voted to maintain the library; thus its future was assured.

On December 15, 1920, the Lemmon Library Association held its first meeting when the following officers were elected: A. D. Smith, President; Mrs. Gantvoort, Vice-President, and Mrs. Hickman, Secretary-Treasurer. Other members of the Board were Reverend Hyink, Mr. Myron, and Mrs. Strang. Miss Merrill was hired for Librarian at \$40 per month.

Library hours for Wednesday and Saturday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00, were changed to 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. every day except Sunday, plus Wednesday and Saturday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00. Mrs. Alice Clauson was elected librarian at a salary of \$45 per month. She served until September, 1924. The budget for the next year was set at \$1,500.

The library was moved to a location in

the first block on 3rd Street west and from there to the new municipal building in June, 1927, where it is today.

Mrs. J. C. Stoner was the next librarian and served from 1924 until 1943, when Mrs. Hazel Lohius was elected. In August, 1943, Mrs. Henry Voigt was elected and served in that capacity until her death in November, 1946. Our present librarian, Mrs. Judith Riis, was elected in January of 1947 and has served us continuously since that time.

The present Library Board members and officers are: Mrs. Myrtle Smith, President; Mrs. Lucille Olien, Vice-President; and Mrs. Kathleen Bertrand, all of whom have served for many years, and Dr. H. J. Christen and Mrs. Sylvia Peterson. A former member and President, Mrs. Elva Bywater, had been on the Board continuously for 34 years until moving away from Lemmon last fall.

There are 8,000 volumes in our library today as well as newspapers and many periodicals. During the year 1960, there were 878 regular borrowers who took out 30,122 books of which 14,276 were by adult borrowers and 15,855 by children. This shows that good use is made of our library by both students and adults. An expansion of the library facilities is contemplated which will provide added space for books and reading rooms.

ASHLEY MEMORIAL CITY LIBRARY

Lennox, South Dakota

Mrs. Florence Wumkes, Librarian

In 1931, the Lennox High School Alumni organized a small library and named it in honor of Mrs. O. P. Ashley, who for more than a generation was a pioneer primary teacher in the Lennox Public School.

The library was financed entirely by donations. In 1935, the Lennox Ladies Study Club took the Library as a project and supported it as a hobby.

In 1941, through the efforts of the club, a petition was circulated and the City

voted a tax levy for the support of the library.

A special Vacation Reading Program for boys and girls has proved very successful with as many as 65 registered each summer. This program is conducted by the librarian, Mrs. Florence Wumkes, who has served for the past twenty years.

The library is housed in the City Hall and has an adult and children's section with more than 500 books.

The Library Board members are: Mrs. Ian O'Connell, Mrs. Ivan Oelrich, Mr. Reuben Matheis, and Mrs. Tena Hafmeister, chairman.

LETCHER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Letcher, South Dakota

Mrs. Virginia Druse, Librarian

All worth-while projects seem to start in a small way. Through hard work and effort, much can be accomplished. The Letcher Library followed this pattern.

Miss Anna Emmerson, a dynamic maiden lady, was the originator or organizing chairman. Through her inspiration, other ladies in the community became interested.

Early in 1921, a rent-free small building on Main Street was scrubbed and painted. It was not long before a Public Library sign peeped through chintz covered windows. The shelves were sparsely covered, so drives for Library books were often made.

The first Library meeting was held in June of 1921, and at this meeting the following board was elected: Mrs. E. D. Pearce, President; Mrs. Bodkin, Treasurer; Mrs. A. D. Frink, Secretary. It was then that an all-out drive for funds was made. Through many "sales talks" and proof that the Library was a living and growing addition to the community, the town voted a one-half mill to help finance the Library.

Miss Emmerson, the librarian, believed in passing her knowledge along. She asked for girl apprentices from the high school. This policy has always been followed.

The Library was a touch and go proposition for some years. Our nice library building was sold. The City Dads gave us a small room on the balcony of the community hall. Thus once again we were in business.

The Civic Study Club voted to take the Library as their project. From the proceeds of their annual plays and shows sixty dollars are ear-marked for the library.

Over the years more books accumulated, so we needed more space. Two small rooms were made into one. This has shelving space for the 3,065 books we now have.

Like Library Boards in many cities and towns, Board members, once appointed, give long and faithful service. Our present board has served since 1957. They are: Mrs. Wallace Welch, President; Mrs. Mildred Lindsley, Vice-president; Mrs. Harland Jamison, Secretary; Mrs. Winifred Bennett, Treasurer; and Mrs. Robert Jamison heads the book committee while Mrs. Vernon Amich is the Civic Club Representative. Honorary members are the Mayor of the town and the ministers of the churches. Mrs. Milly Davis served as Librarian from 1937 to 1947. To her we credit a very successful ten-year service.

It has been said, once you taste something good, you always like it. This seems to be true with Virginia Burrow Druse, who served the Letcher Library for 27 years.

The Library has 'touched' every life in the community-either through reading, working to raise funds, or working on committees.

We are proud of our large collection of South Dakota books. These books are a part of the Mahew Library which was donated to us. They include Doane Robinson's **Brief History of South Dakota** and **South Dakota Biographies**, and **Dakota Territory Volumes** by Smith and Kingsbury. These are on display for our part in the South Dakota Centennial.

I was one of the girls who during my high school days worked under Miss Emmerson. In 1923, when she moved away,

I went in as Librarian and remained until 1936. My family days were heavy, so I resigned until 1947. This time I returned to the library with several high school daughters working as assistants. They later used this training in college libraries. This they liked and it helped also with expenses. I have remained at the Library and plan to do so for several more years.
-Virginia Druze

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Madison, South Dakota
Mrs. Andrew Quist, Librarian

The secretary's book of the Library Board of Trustees gives light to some of the early steps in obtaining a free library for Madison. We quote from the book: "At a mass meeting held in the Opera House for the purpose of considering the question of a public library in the city of Madison, Judge D. D. Holdridge, as chairman, appointed the following committee to take immediate steps toward carrying out the project: Reverend Hugh Robinson, Monsignor Flynn, Reverend A. D. Thibadeau, Miss Anna B. Herrig, Mrs. L. M. Tolles and Mrs Thomas Carey."

Judge Holdridge was authorized to contract with Mr. John Wadden for rooms in his new bank building for six months to be used as a reading room and library.

This library was opened to the public the 24th of December 1905, under the name of the "Madison Free Public Library."

"During the winter of 1905-1906, a series of Parent-Teacher Meetings were held in the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. S. M. Jenks, wife of Dr. Jenks of Madison, presented the idea of trying to get a Carnegie Library for Madison. The project was favorably received and Mrs. Jenks was empowered to write the proper authorities in regard to the matter. She received favorable reply and in due time the city received the sum of \$10,000, with one condition, that the city of Madison guarantee to raise ten per cent of the amount every year for the library expenses. This was guaranteed by the City Council.

The site of the Library was City Park on Center Street. The members of the

building committee were: D. D. Holdridge, A. G. Schmidt, John Wadden, L. T. Love, Hugh Robinson, Monsignor Flynn and Willis White. The contract for building was given to A. J. Garner on October 4, 1906. The building cost \$7,973, the fixtures \$1,596. There was a balance of \$431 when the building was completed. This balance was used for books. On November 11, 1907, the building committee reported to the City Council that the building was ready for their acceptance for the city. The seven member committee who was in charge of the Free Public Library was succeeded by a Board of three trustees appointed by the City Council with the conditions of the Carnegie gift.

The first board of trustees were: Judge D. D. Holdridge, President; Miss Anna B. Herrig, Secretary; Monsignor Flynn, Treasurer. Copied from the Madison Daily Leader: "The New Carnegie Library will be opened to the public Tuesday evening, November 12, 1907 at 7:30 o'clock. There will be no formal exercises as was first planned, but the people are cordially invited to come and look over the building and spend a special evening. The usual rule of silence will not be in force and no books will be given out until the following day."

In 1916 the State Laws required five trustees. Mrs. J. S. McKnight and Superintendent S. L. May were appointed. Thirteen trustees have served as follows:

Judge D. D. Holdridge-1907
Miss Anna B. Herrig-1907
Mrs. L. M. Tolles-1907
Monsignor T. A Flynn-1907
Superintendent S. L. May-1916.
Mrs. Thomas McGee-1917
Mrs. J. S. McKnight-1916
Mr. H. H. Holdridge-1919
Professor C. C. Wagner-1926
Professor Edwin Peterson-1942
Mr. Mark Hallenbeck-1945
Mr. Chris Rogness-1951
Mr. Robert Hall, Sr.-1955
The present trustees are:
President, Mr. Clayton Ball
Vice-president, Mr. Robert Burg
Secretary, Mrs. H. P. Gulstine
Miss Estella Runkel
Mr. Richard Holdorf

The following people have been librarians:

Mrs. A. F. Laity, first librarian
 Mrs. F. B. Roberts
 Miss Anne Hope
 Mrs. Bert Reeve
 Miss Hazel Oppertud
 Mrs. Ray Fridley
 Miss Laura Lawson
 Miss Katherine Davis
 Miss Maud Tobey
 Miss Abigail Lyon
 Mrs. Esther Howard
 Mrs. Andrew Quist
 Miss Mabel Johnson

The number of books in the library gradually increased. In July 1929, there were 7,030 volumes. In 1935 there were 9,263 and in 1960 there were 18,582 volumes. The circulation in 1933, the height of the depression, was 65,240; in 1940 the circulation was 45,971; and last year, it was 30,796.

In 1939 the Library Board voted "that all Lake County teachers could be given the privilege of borrowing eight books every two weeks." The Madison Carnegie Library has been an asset in the community for many years. It has been operated without any major building improvements. The city Commissioners, City Engineer, and the Board of Trustees have worked out a three year project to improve the building and bring it up to modern Library Standards. The project was started in 1960 with the installation of a gas furnace. The Children's Room has been very crowded so it is planned to remodel the ground floor or the basement in making a large room for a Children's Library and Reading Room. It will have two entrances, one from the main floor near the front entrance, the other from the outside of the building. Plans are to have glass block windows, new toilet facilities, and drinking fountain. In the main floor of the building, the ceilings will be lowered and this will make it possible to have the new type of ceiling lighting. New flooring is needed and the building will be insulated. This floor will be used entirely for adults. These improvements will be enjoyed not only by those in Madison, but by people of the County.

A library is judged by the services that it gives to the community. It is the wish of the City Commissioners and the Library Board that patrons receive the very best in library service from the modern Madison Public Library.

MILBANK CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Milbank, South Dakota
 Mrs. Margery Tauber, Librarian

A history of the Milbank Library reveals how it struggled along to keep alive through the early years.

Milbank was laid out in August, 1880. A wheat field and a sod house were all that marked the site of the present city. The Milwaukee Railroad had just been extended from the foot of Big Stone Lake. Milbank was "track's end."

The Grant County Review issued its first number at this time and we are indebted to Mr. Volkmar for the written history of the many events that took place in those pioneer days. The next year, 1881, Mr. Jeremiah Milbank, an official of the Milbank road for whom the town was named, offered to build a church—a union or all-denominational church was his wish. Mr. Milbank was a Baptist, but, as he remarked, he was not one of the "hard-shell or closed communion kind."

In 1882, Mr. Milbank again visited the town on the annual tour of the officials of the railroad and expressed keen regret and disappointment at the unavoidable delay that had occurred in commencing the erection of the church he had promised. (It seems that Mr. Milbank's architect and builder could not come here till 1883 and the \$15,000 church structure, now the Congregational Church, was erected that year.) Mr. Milbank further stated that in as much as the interest on the promised investment would now amount to about \$1,000 he desired to devote that sum to some independent enterprise for the benefit of the town.

A plan was agreed upon: that would be the nucleus of a public library and free reading room. A short time later several citizens of Milbank met at the home of D. W. Diggs, Esq. to consider the pro-

position made by Jeremiah Milbank relative to organizing a reading room and library. D. W. Diggs, cashier of the Bank of Milbank at the time, was selected as chairman; A. H. Lewis, Secretary. The chairman announced that Mr. Milbank's check for \$500 had been received and that upon the completion of the library building he would remit the balance of \$500.

Permanent officers of this association to be known as the Milbank Library Association were elected: President, D. W. Diggs; Vice-president, Reverend J. K. Nutting, Secretary, C. M. Bassett; Treasurer, W. M. Thomas. The president appointed Reverend Nutting, E. D. Ely and D. L. Coleman as a building committee with instructions to obtain a suitable lot and also obtain plans and estimates for a building. It was decided to erect a building to cost \$750. Plans for the building were drawn by a Mr. Bartlett, a prominent architect of Des Moines, Iowa, a friend of Reverend Nutting, who kindly offered to prepare plans free.

On July 12, 1882, Dr. Rose, Dr. Pine and Mr. J. C. Elliot were chosen as members of the board of directors of the Library Association. The capital was fixed at \$5,000, with 840 shares from \$1.00 to \$10.00 per share. The site selected is the present site at the N. E. corner of Third Avenue and 3rd Street. A month later the contract was let for a building 30' X 20' with 14' posts, with Mansard roof and stained glass windows.

In September there was a notice of the sale of stock at the office of the treasurer, W. M. Thomas. The sale of one and two dollar shares were limited to five dollars for each person.

The date for the opening of the new library was set for November 12, 1882. A communication dated November 2, addressed to Library trustees from Mr. Jeremiah Milbank said: "Gentlemen: I forward you this day by Merchants Dispatch a case of books-my contribution to your library." He also went on to say "do not accept the free sprinklings of sermons as a substitute for that church edifice which will go up next season 'hit or miss.' Trusting that the books reach you in time for the opening of the li-

brary." And they did-252 volumes of standard literature, Tuesday evening, November 12, 1882.

The new reading room of the Milbank Library Association was formally opened to the public.

The commodious room was brilliantly lighted and the white walls and freshly-painted woodwork fairly glistened under the bright rays from the chandelier and side lamps! The books Mr. Milbank had donated were on one table while on another table were the books contributed by citizens. It was said that this was the finest public library in the Territory of Dakota, outside of Yankton.

A few days later, Miss Rebecca Oldham was appointed librarian. Her parents homesteaded southeast of Milbank. Miss Oldham stayed at the Ely home during the week. The library was closed during the summer.

It is noted that a number of citizens met at the library and covered books.

In January, 1883, at the annual meeting of the association there were 400 volumes in stock. Disbursements were \$1,179, receipts were \$1,000 from Jeremiah Milbank, \$250 stock sales, \$2.80 fines. Balance on hand \$29.83.

Financial difficulties developed and the ladies gave a supper in the library building to help out-\$57.85 was raised. In July, a benefit netted \$40.00. Later a maple sugar festival was held for the library benefit.

By January, 1884, the library was open on Saturdays from 2 to 9 o'clock and 2 to 3 on Sundays. Later in the year it was decided to keep open every day.

Miss Oldham must have been married at about this time, for they advertised for a librarian. (Miss Oldham married Mr. J. W. Bell, an early Milbank attorney.)

To protect the trees around the library building from damage by teams, a fence was built, June 3, 1884.

When Mr. Jeremiah Milbank died at his home in New York City, 1884, business places in Milbank closed and memorial services were held.

A musical and literary entertainment at the Methodist church was a library benefit. A year later a list of over-due books was published in the town paper. Also in 1885, a committee of aldermen met to consider the city's assuming the responsibilities of the reading room.

In November, 1885, it was announced that unless the city council could see its way clear to take hold of the library property, it would be sold under mortgage foreclosure. In December, 1885, the library real estate came into possession of the city.

In 1886, a new board was organized. The Episcopal Church services were being held in the Library Hall in 1887. The county being new and the expense considerable it was decided that it was not possible to keep the library running, so in January, 1888, the books were taken to W. M. Thomas' building where Mr. Thomas acted as librarian. The next month the library building was leased to the Episcopal church and they released to the Swedish Lutherans, the German Lutherans and on Saturday to the Seven Day Adventists, so it developed that Mr. Milbank's idea of a union church took place in the library he gave us.

September, 1891, the building was leased for one of the grades in the grammar school and in 1894, the building was still in use as a school.

In April, 1898, a traveling library was placed in Nelson's drug store in this city. A fresh consignment of books was sent here every three months for the use of subscribers to the library.

May 5, 1898. A list of the seven best books for the year 1897 as selected by the N. Y. Library Association and the New York Library Club, was published in the Grant County Review.

1. On the Face of the Waters, by Mrs. F. A. Steel

2. St. Ives, by Robert Louis Stevenson

3. The Gadfly, by E. L. Voynick

4. School for Saints, by John Oliver Hobbs

5. Captains Courageous, by Kipling

6. Hugh Wynne, Free Quaker, by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell

7. The Choir Invisible, by James Lane Allen

May, 1899, was the date of Milbank's big fire which destroyed many business places. Dr. and Mrs. Ross served hot coffee to the firemen.

From the paper in February, 1901, "A good move is being inaugurated by the ladies in the city to establish a free reading room-an object worthy of the support of every citizen." (A month later, the ladies circulated a petition to the city council requesting the levy of a 1-mill tax under law for the purpose of providing a fund for the maintenance of the project.) "A 1-mill tax will raise between two and three hundred dollars."

November 7, 1901. "The Milbank Free Reading Room established over Wood Bros. (now Drewelow's) has opened. The board of managers consists of two ladies each from the Congregational, Methodist and Episcopal churches. We have the names of Mrs. W. B. Saunders, G. A. Wood, G. Middlebrook, W. W. Downie. But we don't know who the other two were" The 1-mill tax vote will raise \$245.84. The reading room was to be open seven months of the year; the librarian's salary \$20.00 a month and rent \$10.00. The incidental expenses must be met by some benefit entertainment. The hours were afternoon and evening and Sunday afternoons.

Miss Nuna Shannon was appointed librarian but Mrs. Ely took temporary charge. The books of the old library association, which for several years had been in charge of Mr. Thomas at his store, have been moved to new rooms.

The provisions of the new curfew ordinance were modified to permit children to visit the reading room after eight provided they go straight home afterwards.

January 2, 1902. "Miss Nuna Shannon leaves for North Dakota to teach school. Her place as librarian is taken by her sister, Miss Minnie."

In March, "the Quaker Quartette entertained at the Opera House under auspices

of the Free Reading Room. At this time, too, an editorial appeared saying the Library Hall had been used as a meeting place for the City Council and to the everlasting shame and disgrace of all concerned a majority of the city council converted the building into a common lock-up and city jail-notwithstanding the vigorous protests of a very large majority of the citizens of the town."

In March, 1904: "the Excelsior club sponsored an entertainment at the Congregational Church for the library benefit."

In April, 1905: "the board of the lady managers of the Milbank Library are agitating the question of applying to Andrew Carnegie for an appropriation to erect a library building. The plan upon which Mr. Carnegie gives money for the purpose, is to require the City Council to adopt an irrevocable resolution, binding the city to annually appropriate a sum equal to 10 per cent of the sum which he gives for the maintenance of the building. The City Council was requested to donate the old library lot for a building site. This would necessitate moving off the two school buildings now on the old library site."

By many it was thought "there should be two or three lots for a building so as to allow it to stand out in plain sight as a thing of beauty."

In May, 1905: In the annual report of the Mayor, Mr. Bouck, he says, "beginning from few books, and small appropriations from the city, the board of library managers have accomplished much. The library is now one of the best in the state. The patrons have increased until the present quarters are too small to accommodate them. This situation was anticipated and through the efforts of Mr. W. B. Saunders and other members of the board, Andrew Carnegie has kindly consented to donate \$700. We can scarcely appreciate how much this means for Milbank."

A month later Architect Church of Minneapolis met with Board of Education and Managers of the Library to consider plans for the Carnegie Library. In the early fall work on the foundation had begun.

In November, 1905: Miss Minnie Shan-

non published a list of the newspapers and magazines to be found on the tables at the library. On April 5, 1906, a picture of the new building appeared in the town paper by courtesy of the St. Paul Dispatch. The new building is mottled brick with granite trimming. May 10th, 1906: the formal opening of the new Carnegie Library took place with a program of music.

On May 10, 1906: A formal opening of the Milbank Carnegie Library took place and Miss Minnie Shannon was appointed librarian. Miss Shannon served the library faithfully over thirty years. Many children of this community learned to love good books through her interest and untiring efforts.

Mrs. Lucille V. Austin of Lodi, Wisconsin, became librarian in 1938. On October 1, 1939, after Mrs. Austin resigned, Miss Cornelia Kaercher was appointed librarian. During Miss Kaercher's tenure of office, extensive remodeling and technical improvements in library service were made, and through the efforts of Miss Kaercher, the library became recognized as one of the finest libraries in the state of South Dakota, ranking first in the state in circulation of non-fiction material. In October, 1951, Miss Kaercher tendered her resignation to obtain her Master's Degree in Library Science at the University of Minnesota. She is now librarian at St. Paul Academy, a private school for boys in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mrs. Naida Tomek Kruger and Mrs. LaDonna Wendt Pufahl served as assistants during the time Miss Kaercher was in the library. Mrs. Pufahl assumed the duties of a librarian until the appointment of Mrs. Kurt Tauber in January, 1952. Since 1952, many repairs have been made to preserve the life of the buildings: interior and exterior redecoration, considerable new shelving, remodeling of the periodical room including new light fixtures, the installation of an oil furnace, etc. A few of the technical library improvements that have been instituted to give greater reading service to the public include a complete reorganization of the card catalog, a new unabridged dictionary and stand, a new circulation desk, etc. In one corner of the library a memorial shelf has been donated by the Walter Lowthians of the

city. This shelf holds many books which have been given in memory of Dr. Charles Flett, Mrs. George Anderson, Mr. L. M. Kaercher, Miss Winifred Olson, and a large collection of books has been donated through the progressive Study Club by Mr William Hasleau of Montevideo, Minnesota, in memory of his wife, Madge Emerson Hasleau.

Mrs. Donald Becker was assistant librarian from 1952 until her resignation in 1955. Mrs. Minnie Vandament is now serving in that capacity. During the past years, many have had the honor of serving on the library board-some of whom are now deceased: Mrs. Arthur Mittelstaedt, Dr. Flett, Mrs. Gus Mittelstaedt, Mrs. Thad Fuller. Other trustees have been Chloe Phelan, Daisey Mittelstaedt, Helen Walz, Mae Murray, Ruth Kirchner, Elsie Johnson, Esther Hunter, Francis Cliff (now residing in California), Leon Orth, Harvey Maxfield and Dr. Dornbusch.

The present library board consists of the following members: Mrs. Phil Aldrich, president; Mrs. J. J. Eisenmenger, secretary; Mrs. Roy Wilson, Mr. Arthur Mittelstaedt; and Mr. Ernest Hansen who represents the City Council.

MITCHELL CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Mitchell, South Dakota
Miss Alma Thomas, Librarian

Mitchell has been a library-conscious town since the early 1880's. It was then that the Reverend Chapin, a home missionary, Established a library with his own private library of religious, travel, and literature books, in the little chapel located on the northeast corner of First and Main Street-to be exact, the first door north of the N. E. corner of First and Main.

So many people visited to borrow books from Rev. Chapin's collection that the Women's Temperance Union lent a helping hand and opened a reading room in the same building. They purchased some fiction books and, with a loan of several hundred of Rev. Chapin's books, started the first circulating library. We might consider this an early Interlibrary Loan

as Rev. Chapin did not give his books but loaned them. He hoped that a YMCA would be started, and to this he planned to give his books. However, his hope did not materialize. When the Carnegie Library opened, he made a gift of these volumes to the Carnegie Library. Mrs. M. E. Oline and Miss M. J. Hesse, both active in the WCTU and keepers of a little store next door, became interested in the project, so Mrs Oline on Wednesday and Saturday donated time to the Reading Room and thus became Mitchell's first librarian.

Some printed rules, dated July 1, 1885, stated anyone could borrow books for a subscription fee of \$1.00 for six months or \$2.00 a year. Anyone not subscribing could borrow a book for a fee of 10c per week. This fund was used to purchase new books.

Miss Beaulah Windle (Mrs. S. H. Scallin), a teacher, took charge during 1886-1887; then Miss Eva Keith continued until her marriage to S. J. Mohr of Alexandria, South Dakota. In 1894, the library was reorganized and moved over a store. Frank Purdy "took over the running of the library and served as librarian" as the YMCA had been organized and "took over" where the library was housed.

An old ledger of this date, still in the Carnegie Library gives the names of early patrons and the books they borrowed. Its record discloses that the Mitchell Library Association made its first purchase of books, January 9, 1894, from the Minneapolis Book Concern, 12 Lumber Exchange, Minneapolis, Minn. In 1896, all records stopped and library service discontinued. Perhaps this was the result of hard times, the drouth, the panic of 1893, an aftermath of the grasshopper invasion. There were no donations of books; Rev. Chapin refused to give his books; and there was no organization to sponsor the library. Active interest was lacking for a library until the gift of Andrew Carnegie was announced in 1902.

Early in January, 1902 Mr. Edward S. Johnston, Editor of the *Gazette*, sought funds from Mr. Andrew Carnegie to meet Mitchell's desire for a library and promoting its suitability for one. Within two weeks, Mr. Carnegie replied. He would

give \$10,000 for a building with the city of Mitchell responsible for furnishing the site and an appropriation of \$1,000 annually for maintenance. Mayor A. E. Hitchcock presented the contents of the letter to the City Council of February 3, 1902 and asked for favorable consideration. The Council accepted the donation with its proviso and the Mayor appointed one member from each ward to obtain the views of the Citizens-their views were overwhelmingly favorable. On February 10, 1902, the Council gave a vote of thanks to Mr. Carnegie for his donation and to Mr. Johnston for his prompt action in bringing Mitchell's need of a library to Mr. Carnegie.

Considerable rivalry developed between the East side and the West side over the location of the library. Mrs. L. Beckwith offered the lots where the Post Office is now located on Lawler and Fourth; Will Smith, B. B. Miller and others solicited \$1,000 from residents to furnish the library. Good rivalry helps promote, so that, not to be outdone by the East Side, the West Side group headed by J. E. Wells, L. G. Gale, Al Dean, A. B. Hagar and some twenty others offered to donate the S. W. Corner of Block 8 with 92 feet fronting West Second Street and 142 feet fronting Rowley. Because it was the time of the Capital fight, the Council accepted the offer of the West Side Group if they could use that site for a city hall if the vote was favorable for it, with the library to be built at the N. W. Corner of the same block. The City Hall was constructed on the S. W. Corner and the Library was built at its present location with 92 feet facing West Third and 142 feet facing Rowley.

Plans for the Library were accepted on May 12, 1902. W. L. Dow & Sons, Sioux Falls, made the plans and specifications. A. J. Kings, Mitchell, was awarded the contract on August 4, 1902 at the agreed price of \$9,965. The masonry work was sub-let to Gottlieb Scheurenbrand and he began work on September 3, 1902. A. J. Kings found that his bid would not cover cost of construction, therefore, the Carnegie Foundation was asked for \$2,000 more and received it with the proviso the city add another \$200 annually for maintenance and upkeep. The money was received October 2, 1902. The money was

reported for furnishings, but it was used to complete the construction of the building.

The Woman's Library Association played an important role in the early history of the Mitchell Carnegie Library. It was organized in February, 1903, with Mrs. S. H. Scallin as the first president. Requirements for membership were described as follows: "Any woman, resident of Mitchell, eighteen years of age or over, may become a member of the Association by presenting her name to the secretary, and subscribing to the constitution and paying the membership fee of fifty cents "

The annual dues were placed at twenty-five cents. To this they added the money earned from a "Merchant's Carnival. ' (The merchandise sold had been donated by the merchants.) O. W. Coursey and Mrs. O. W. Coursey drilled one group of young and Miss Mary Windle drilled the children for part of the entertainment. Admission was set at 35c and 50c; receipts totaled \$171.85. On April 2, 1903, the Association had a balance of \$289.45 in the fund. Many donations of \$2.00 each were received and the three banks gave \$5.00 each. They contrived relentlessly to raise money with different kinds of entertainments, food sales, cookbooks, etc., until, in 1913, the State enacted a law directing cities to appropriate money for the library. This work for finance was now unnecessary, and they were relieved of their well-done job. The Women's Library Association, other clubs of Mitchell, and individuals of the community did much to promote the growth of the Library. Mrs. H. D. Butterfield was president of the Women's Library Association in 1904 and served on the Library Board continuously until 1923. She did much to stimulate the newly-launched library.

As the Women's Library Association worked "furiously" to raise money to purchase books and furnishings, the construction of the new Library progressed, and the city records state that on May 25, 1903, the Women's Library Association received use of the West room in the basement; however, they did not make use of it until November 3, 1903. Prior to this, on February 2, 1903, the GAR asked the Council for two rooms in the basement;

they were granted their request and a month later, \$100 to furnish the rooms.

The Library was dedicated October 5, 1903. Dedication service was held in the Corn Palace, followed by a tour of the Library. Refreshments were served by the Women's Library Association. Many interested people attended. On June 26, 1903, the Council made a Formal Acceptance of the building from A. J. Kings and a Formal Dedication was held in the Club Rooms with a book shower, a musical entertainment, and "liquid refreshments." Prior to June 8, 1903, the city Council met and Mayor Silsby appointed Dr. E. B. Bracy, a retired physician, as librarian with the salary of \$35 per month. He was also attendant, janitor, and fireman since the library was heated by a stove the first year. The City Hall was completed the following year and it furnished heat until 1960. It was then that the City Hall was razed and the Library put in its own gas furnace.

Mayor Silsby, Alderman Hannet, and Alderman Foster were the Library Board under Mayor Silsby with Mrs. S. H. Scallin and Mrs. J. M. Wood, president and secretary of the Women's Library Association, as Auxiliary members.

In 1913, the new law required the mayor to appoint a Library Board. Mrs. H. D. Butterfield, J. C. Lindsey, and M. F. Patton were appointed by Mayor Hitchcock. Mrs. Butterfield was from the Butterfield Dept. Store; Mr. Lindsey was Principal of the High School and Mr. Patton was associated with the Mitchell Trust Company and later became President of the Mitchell National Bank. Each one worked diligently for the growth of the library and served until the late 1920's. Most Board Members served for a long period of time, which fact helped to strengthen our Library policy. Other Board Members who served were: Mrs. A. F. Smith, Mrs. Jack Heidt (Lucy Bell Thompson), C. S. Whiting, Dr. E. W. Jones, A. F. Culhane, Dr. William Delaney, Sr., W. H. Fritz, Sr, and Judge Fred Nicol. The present Board of Trustees consists of Mr. Hale Raber, Mrs. J. W. Bryant, Mrs. W. I. Saterlie, Dr. W. H. Fritz, and Mr. L. D. Carlson. Mr. Raber was appointed to the Board in 1929 and has served continuously since. He has held

the office of president since 1930. Many improvements to our library have been made during this time.

In 1928, the Children's Room was moved to the basement due to the crowded conditions on the Main Floor. The rooms formerly occupied by the GAR and WRC were taken for use of the Children's Library and Workroom. Shelving for the Main Collection of books, by 1930, was inadequate and Mr. Raber became overseer of a new addition, 20 X 24, built south of the stack room. It was made of Sioux Falls granite. For a time this relieved the shelving shortage; however, by 1960, with magazines piled high and no place to file them, the Board again built a new 20 X 42 addition of brick to the east. It had two rooms; the one in the basement housed newspaper files and seldom-used books; the other, on the main floor, had shelves around the room and double-faced stacks for magazines. All the indexed current magazines are filed there and made easily accessible to the public. Both rooms have beautiful floors and the special lighting (skylights) in the Main Floor Annex makes good reading light.

Senator Hitchcock left a bequest which provided funds for the Board to build this new addition and in his honor is known as the Herbert Hitchcock Annex. Mr. Raber was again supervisor. The building was designed by Walter Dixon, Architects, and completed at a cost of \$23,796.73. Contractors were Fred Breer, General Contract; Swanson Plumbing and Heating; and Galen Coates Electric Co.

Carnegie Library started with a book collection of 1,408 volumes in 1903 and has grown to over 30,000. Continuous weeding of obsolete books and physically worn ones has kept a live collection for the reading public. The valuable old books and First Editions have been saved. The new reference added is currently used. 112,000 books were circulated in 1960 which was an average of from 10-12 books for every man, woman, and child in our city. The assessed valuation of \$12,000 in 1903 increased to \$98,000 in 1960. The budget is about \$30,000.

The Library is serviced by four full-time employees and one part-time. Mitch-

ell has secured good librarians for its library and the growth of the library indicates it. Having mentioned the earlier librarians, I will give a resume on others: Miss Edla Laurson, 1903-1924, worked with Dr. Bracy during her college days at Dakota Wesleyan. She received no pay during this training period. In 1917 and 1918, she attended the University of Wisconsin for her degree in Library Science. Miss Alice Strong and Miss Alma Thomas were acting librarians during her leave of absence. Later Miss Laurson became Librarian at Dakota Wesleyan and, during the 1920's, Miss Edith Miller filled in for her during this leave of absence. Determining that public library work was what she liked most, Miss Laurson worked until 1924 at the Mitchell Carnegie Library and then resigned to become head of the Foreign Language Department of the Detroit Public Library. From 1924 to 1930, Miss Murle Bryan became head of the staff, but left in 1930 to join the staff at the Detroit, Michigan Library. Miss Lola Farr filled in the following year, but resigned in 1931 to go to the Pontiac, Illinois, Library. She was followed from 1931 to 1944 by Miss Lora Crouch, who resigned to become Head Librarian at the Sioux Falls Public Library, and in 1960 accepted a library position in Lake Placid, New York. Miss Sarah Corcoran, 1944-1947, accepted a position in Walla Walla, Washington in 1947. She was followed by Miss Olive Grobel, (Mrs. Blanche Tjomaland) 1947-1950. Mrs. Carolyn Mountain has continued library services from 1950-1961. She was acting librarian for several years, and is now assistant to the present librarian, Miss Alma Thomas. Miss Thomas started her library career in the Mitchell Library under the tutorship of Miss Edla Laurson. Her experience included work in the Department of History with Mr. Doane Robinson, and assistant librarian at South Dakota State College. In the intervening years she was a dedicated librarian at the Aberdeen High School. Now she is back home to give worthily of her profession. She is a graduate of South Dakota State College. Her Library Degree was received from Columbia University with post-graduate work at University of South Dakota, University of Southern California, and again in recent years, Columbia University.

Our beloved Children's librarian, Mrs. Eva Reeve, retired in January, 1961, after many years as assistant librarian and many more as children's librarian. Mrs. Verna Schutte is now Juvenile Librarian.

A. H. BROWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mobridge, South Dakota

Mrs. Robert De Vinny, Librarian

The splendid group of men and women that settled in the bend of the Missouri River, which later became the "Mobridge," can recall its first settlers-Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Larson and family of seven children in 1887.

The love of reading and education through books can be traced back to Lola Blunt and Lou Smith (Holyoke College). Then after the organization of the United Congregational Church in 1908, the second minister Dr. D. C. Warren, in 1913, made available to the public his personal library. His office was used as the library proper with Miss Beatrice Dewey (Mrs. Arviddon) as librarian. It was open during the afternoon hours. Efforts then were for establishing a free public library by the Mayor, C. A. Smith. The first Library Board was J. E. Clayton, C. J. Moulding, W. M. Potts, Lillian Doud-Tronson and Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Twining. Mrs. Paul Jones replaced Mrs. Doud following her resignation.

Continued progress in this new library development was aided in 1916 through the efforts of the State Field Librarian, Miss Lewis, who gave detailed instruction to various ladies who volunteered their services.

The library was moved from the Church Rectory Study to a one room library in a building that had housed the First National Bank. With Mrs. Jennings and her substitutes, they gave the Bridge City people their opportunity for securing books for reference as well as for pleasure. The next move was to the Mascot Theater Building, second floor on Main Street. Library hours were still in the afternoon. Miss Laura Powers was engaged for full time librarian. Doors were open daily, afternoons and evenings three

times a week. The substitutes: Mesdames Twining, Clayton, Jones, DeVinny, Thel Brown, and Fern Nelson, who are still assisting at times. We moved to larger quarters in the Clayton Building with Mrs. Homan as librarian. At that time there were about 500 books plus a pay shelf that netted \$70.

The City appropriated money for the Board to purchase two lots (site of the present Lowe Hospital). Through the influence of Mr. Brown, a Council member, an exchange of lots was arranged with Mr. W. M. Potts, who consented to donate a building to the city for their library. He stipulated that the city must maintain it at all times or it would revert back to him or his heirs. Library service should be made available also to all Walworth County residents. Its cost should be between \$10,000 and \$20,000. The Board consisted of Mr. Potts, Mesdames Twining, Tolhiem, Jones, and Mr. Frank Williams, assisted by Miss Leora Lewis of the South Dakota Free Library Commission who worked with Mr. Brown and his architect, George Fossum of Aberdeen as to specifications. The cornerstone was laid on September 20, 1939. Mr. A. A. Brown, lawyer, gave the dedication address for the library named "A. H. Brown Public Library." For years, however, the Mobridge Public Library was used for its title, due to mail conflicting between the Library and Mr. Brown's office. Following his death, a motion was made by Mrs. Jones to use the authentic name for the library.

During the depression years, a book binding WPA project met in the basement. There was also a Children's Library; two Memorial shelves for Mrs. Mary Morrison by the Arts and Travel Club in 1947; another for Mr. and Mrs. Clayton by the Cultus Club in 1949. In 1953, after the death of Mrs. Nelson Toben, a gift of recordings were given by her son and wife. This is now under the supervision of the Twentieth Century Club.

Since we were in our Library building, librarians have been, Mrs. Ernest Cremmel, Mrs. Fred Bedker, Mrs. Martha Ege-land, and Mrs. Flossie Briley. Mrs. Robert DeVinny is our present librarian. The present Library Board includes Mesdames Alice Caldwell, Robert Freemore, C. M.

Keller, Harry Mundt, and George Erbe, and her substitutes, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Apperg, Mrs. Erdahl, serve our large community, both Walworth County and also the adjoining counties.

The library contains some rare out-of-print books of South Dakota authors. We have entertained the South Dakota Library Association in the past. We have Open House for Book Week, a Summer Reading Program for children, originating with Mrs. Briley, as well as a Children's Story Hour.

-Mrs. Paul Jones

MT. VERNON LIBRARY

Mt. Vernon, South Dakota
Mrs. Ema Malde, Librarian

It is now 45 years since the Mt. Vernon library was started and many changes have taken place.

In the fall of 1915, some people in Mt. Vernon met to discuss starting a library. A Library Association was formed with Reverend W. A. Ferguson as president.

A room was fitted in the office of Dr. J. B. Smiley for a library with Miss Myrtle Bromwell serving as receptionist for the doctor and librarian until 1916. Many books were donated at this time and the project was financed by selling borrower's cards for \$1, good for one year.

Then the library board petitioned the City Council to submit to the vote of the people a request to establish a free public library within the city, financed by taxation.

Myrtle Bromwell resigned; then Marion Ferguson was appointed temporary librarian until Jennie Trotter (Mrs. Henry Eitrem) was hired for full time librarian. The first library was housed in the old post office building, south of Benz Recreation Parlor. Miss Nettie Trotter (Mrs. Charles Iliff) was librarian there. When more space was needed it was moved to the old McEwen store building, where Wermers Produce was recently located.

In 1941, the library was moved to the City Auditorium, where it is housed in

the basement. It is growing out of its space as new books and files are added each year.

Librarians to date, since Mrs. Iliff were Mrs. Eva Dunham Sellars (1927-30), Mrs. Clara Frye (1930-41), and Mrs. Bernice Smiley (1941-1958), and since 1958, Mrs. Emma Malde.

W. M. McDonald was Mayor at the time the Library Board was appointed. The board was to consist of 5 members, not less than 2 women, an officer could be a member of the City Council. First members appointed were: Mrs. Grace Helgersen and Olin Bromwell, two years-Reverend Ferguson, 1 year Mrs. J. Newell and Charles Woodard-3 years.

The library now has over 4,000 books and many current magazines available for reading; and files are kept for those listed in the Reader's Guide. There are encyclopedias for reference work also, many non-fiction books and a good selection of books on the History of South Dakota, both fiction and non-fiction.

Two people in Mt. Vernon who were instrumental in starting the library are still living-Mrs. Smiley (Now deceased) and Olin Bromwell. Mr. Bromwell served on the board continuously until 1947, and Mrs. Smiley from 1941 to 1958 as librarian.

Those responsible for starting the Library were: Reverend Ferguson, Mrs. Adolph Romanck, Mrs. C. B. Woodard, Mrs. Smiley, J. H. Helgersen, Carl Johnson and Olin Bromwell.

The present Library Board members are: Mrs. Burdette Oakley, president; Mrs. P. Strombeck, Mrs. Burdette Croson, Mrs. Wayne Larson and Melvin Oakley is treasurer.

Picture books for our little folks and good reading for school students and adults are to be found on our shelves.

Our library is open to the public from 3:30 to 5:30 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and on Saturday, 3:00 to 5:30.

NEWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Newell, South Dakota

Mrs. Victor Norlin, Librarian

Early in 1950 a group of interested people gathered in the city hall to discuss

possibilities of organizing a town library. Rev. Horace Parsons of the Congregational Church was the instigator of this meeting. Delegates were requested from each organization of the town to be present and to make some sort of library organization.

Letters from neighboring towns told how they had organized their libraries which gave this group an idea of how to proceed. It was established that organizations and individuals would have to make donations to get this library started. This date in April saw the group agreeing on the need of the library and the desire to proceed.

From the group there, a committee of ten people were chosen to be an organizational committee with the following sub-committees:

Publicity: Mr. G. W. Austin, Rev. H. C. Parsons, Mrs. Ed Breidenbach, and Mrs. R. D. Long.

Membership: Rev. H. C. Parsons, Mr. Govert Vanderboon, and Mr. G. W. Austin

Constitution: Mrs. George Hafner, Mrs. Frank Palmer, and Mrs. Herman Shipley.

Organization: Mrs. George Hafner, Mrs. M. J. O'Brien, Mrs. O. A. Garness, and Mrs. Herman Shipley.

The location of the library was to be in an unused room in the Parish House of the Congregational Church. Rent would be \$5.00 per month. The room had to be renovated and shelves added, some of which were donated by Mr. Brodsky, and the F.F.A. boys made others. Early in the fall of 1950 the books were in order. Most of them had been donated by interested people. Mrs. Ann West had been hired as part time librarian at the salary of 64c an hour. Mrs. Marie Gardner, Librarian at Newell High School, had done the cataloging of books. On November 3 and 4, 1950, an Open House was held.

In the fall of 1951 a series of articles appeared in the local paper, reminding and informing the public of the value of our new library to the town. A dance was planned and held to raise funds for the

continued support. Mrs. Poole took over the job of librarian which she held for five years.

After a year and a half the Library Board decided the time had arrived to petition the city to vote on the acceptance of the library as a city obligation. It carried and since January 1, 1953, Newell Library has been city run with a city appointed Library Board. In the fall of 1954 the library moved to larger quarters in the City Hall. Mrs. Benson became librarian soon afterwards.

The Library Services Act, in which Regional Libraries were to be organized, brought many changes to our city library. Miss Mercedes MacKay, Director of the State Library, met with the city council and made several proposals whereby we would benefit most considerably by taking part in the Regional Library development.

A new location on first floor and street level was acquired. The addition of many new books and much new furniture made our city library one of which we could be very proud. We became affiliated with the Northwest Regional Library in January of 1959.

The library has been ably served by the above mentioned librarians and Mrs. Barbara Karen, Mrs. Nora Schallenberger and Mrs. Minnie Norlin.

The Library Board has been Mrs. Delores Johnson, Mrs. Norma Bruce, Mrs. Hilda Williamson and Mrs. Doris Shipley plus a member of the City Council. Always we've operated on a very close budget-the present 1961 budget is \$2,530.

-Delores Johnson

PARKER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Parker, South Dakota

Mrs. Verena Michael, Librarian

Parker Public Library was started in 1908, when Mr. Willey and Mr. F. C. Danforth each gave some volumes of books to the Reading Circle. It was then organized as "The Willey Public Library." This new library was housed in the back part of what was then The Citizens Bank of Parker.

Mrs. Esther Roantree, Mrs. L. L. Flee-ger, Mrs. J. Waterbury, Mrs. C. Harmon, Mrs. G. W. Hill, with others who were members of the Reading Circle met in the home of Mrs. F. C. Danforth and organized this new library. They were very proud of their new Public Library which soon became a real asset to the community and teachers there and nearby. The Reading Circle (now called Woman's Club) and the Study Club sponsored many bake sales and socials to provide funds to buy books and other needed equipment for the library. The Priscilla Club has given generously in support of the library.

These club women of Parker were the first workers in this new library. Mrs. Esther Roantree filed the first annual report July, 1913. She continued as librarian until August, 1916. Mrs. Fannie Cotton filed the annual report as librarian after that.

The first listed directors of this library were Mrs. Esther Roantree, Mrs. Keyes, Mrs. L. W. Robinson, Mrs. F. C. Danforth, Mrs. J. Waterbury, and Mrs. C. Harmon in 1916. Others listed as Directors, some one year, some longer, were Miss Cora Wood, Mrs. George Johnson, Mrs. Fannie Cotton (who for twenty-seven years was the librarian), Mrs. F. W. Hill, Mrs. F. J. West, Mrs. Sophia Formanack, Mrs. C. Hackett, Mrs. W. R. Wood, Mrs. Bertha Grebel Cameron, Mrs. H. C. Pfeiffer, Mrs. O. C. Nicolls, Mrs. H. E. Wagener, Mrs. A. Shurtleff, Mrs. Elizabeth Even, Miss Nellie Appleby, Mrs. P. G. Estee, Mrs. L. L. Long, Mrs. Gus Meyers, Mrs. H. Unruh, and Mrs. D. S. Kalayjian.

July 1, 1923 a report noted that a building fund had been started but the next report stated that from January 1 to July 1, 1924, all their previous funds were in the insolvent bank.

Mrs. Bertha Grebel Cameron joined the board of Directors in 1922, Mrs. H. E. Wagener in 1923, and Mrs. L. L. Long in 1932. Later after 1938, Mrs. L. L. Flee-ger and Mrs. J. C. Webster became members of the Board and for many years these five helped improve the library. Mrs. Grebel Cameron and Mrs. H. E. Wagener still are members helping by counseling.

August 1925, the city agreed to *pay* rent and part of the Librarian's salary. The library was then moved to the Mer-rigan Block and a City Rest Room was maintained in connection with it.

Mrs. Elizabeth Even assisted Mrs. Fannie Cotton in the Library in 1932, 1933, and 1934.

In 1929, the name was changed to Public Library and in 1932 to Parker Public Library. At a special meeting October 18, 1934, the City Council agreed to repair the east room of the City Hall and early in November the library was moved to this new location, where it is still housed. The City now furnished light and fuel, and the librarian's salary.

Mrs. Fannie Cotton continued as librarian until November 1, 1943, when, owing to her failing health, she was no longer able to perform the duties of librarian and Mrs. Nellie Gallagher, who had been her assistant, was named librarian.

On February 5, 1945, the present librarian, Mrs. Martin Michael, was appointed. She has made a card catalog by author and title of almost all the 3,852 adult and 999 juvenile books. As funds are available she adds the best recommended new books.

January, 1961, new electric heat was installed in the library which makes for convenience and comfort.

WOMAN'S CLUB LIBRARY

Philip, South Dakota
Mrs. George Mesick, Librarian

The library in Philip, known as the Philip's Woman's Club Library, has been a project of the Woman's Club from its organization. It was started in 1929 and possibly earlier as it started with club members buying a few books for book reports at their meetings. Presumably, the books were kept in the home of the Club president, until through donations and purchases, they became too burdensome to be moved from one home to another and the need for a library, where they could be permanently housed, was evident.

Early in 1932, the County Commissioners gave permission to use a room on the fourth floor of the courthouse for a library, and it was officially opened May 6, 1932, with 282 volumes, most of them donations.

The first librarian was appointed in 1931, when Mrs. Lola Ferguson was chosen to serve in that capacity, but only for a period of six months. Miss Norma Lockett served as librarian in the late thirties and early forties. Mrs. George Mesick has been librarian since 1943, keeping the library open every Friday and Saturday afternoons from two to five o'clock.

No provision was made in those early years for obtaining new books, except as the members bought a few for their book reviews and then gave them to the library. Later, the librarian made use of the Traveling Library, whereby a library could borrow books from the State Library at Pierre for as long as a six-month period. Still later, the Woman's Club voted to set aside a certain amount each year for the library to enable it to buy books, so, little by little, the shelves were filled.

We have outgrown our present quarters, but the time is not right for a move to larger quarters, nor has the right place materialized. We are still hopeful that in the not too distant future we may find larger and more convenient housing. The Club Women have been working on this project for some time but available funds have not made it possible. As it is now, support for the library comes from a nominal sum provided by the Woman's Club each year with which to purchase books, and from the county *which pays* the librarian's salary and provides housing for the library itself.

The library has grown from 282 to 3,036 volumes to date. We are hard pressed to find room for new books. However, donations of good books are always welcomed and a place is made for them. Many of the books have been gifts over the years from individuals in the community. A complete set of reference books, the World Book Encyclopedia, was donated in 1957 by an individual, as a memorial. The club women and others have furnished book shelving at various times according to the need.

Each year the Woman's Club president appoints a committee which serves as trustees of the library. The present committee is composed of three members: Mrs. Roy Emerson, Mrs. Leonard Ellis and Mrs. Otis Foland. They aid and support the librarian in making important decisions and one of them acts as librarian whenever necessary.

Since our funds for buying books is, of necessity, limited, we place special emphasis on building up the children's section. In 1940, our records show 237 children's books and now we have 1,162. It has been slow, but we feel it is very worthwhile, and rewarding.

PLANKINTON CITY LIBRARY

Plankinton, South Dakota
Mrs. Bernice Paynter, Librarian

Plankinton City Library was organized many years ago by the Live-and-Learn Study Club. Shelves were placed in the City Hall and, with funds received from W.P.A., new books were purchased and many more were donated by the residents of the town.

Miss Rose Schobot, city auditor, acted as librarian.

In 1947, the Post Office building burned and it was necessary to move the Post Office into the City Hall, so the library, not being able to find available space, had to be discontinued. The books were stored until the new shelving space could be located and interest seemed to lag.

In 1956, the "Extensionette" Extension Club members, feeling that there was a real need for library facilities in the town, decided to reorganize the library. They unboxed the stored books, canvassed the town for additional books, and, as the City Hall was again available, reactivated the library.

The first year each member took her turn as acting librarian, but this didn't prove too satisfactory, so the club approached the City Council for assistance. They voted the sum of \$500 a year for library purposes. Out of this amount \$300 was to be used to pay a regular librarian

for the six hours a week that the library would be open. The remaining \$200 was to be used for the purchase of new books.

At the present time we have more than four thousand volumes on the shelves and new books are purchased each month. Many people of the town have given almost their entire library, while others have given a few books. The P.T.A. voted to buy two new books a year.

[Mrs. Bernice Paynter has acted as librarian for the past four years. The library hours are two hours on Wednesday and Friday afternoons and two hours on Saturday night.

The Extensionette Club sponsors the summer vacation reading club and rewards the children with a party on the day the reading certificates are awarded. They also hold open house during National Library Week in November and serve cookies and coffee to the visitors.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Platte, South Dakota
Cecelia Dietz, Librarian

The Woman's Club began a public library movement to provide books for our school in 1916. When the school building burned in 1924, the club voted to raise funds for another school library.

We sponsored the Springfield Normal Entertainment Program. This was successful, financially, as it produced a net balance of \$225.85. In 1925 we sponsored a play and in 1926 the Redpath Lyseum Course. We bought \$160 worth of books from the proceeds. In 1928 a play, "Alicia Parks Up," was presented by members of the club. It netted \$141.60. We continued buying books for the Platte Public School Library until 1938. In that year we voted to "take on" a city library.

Members of the committee to work out the details were Jessie Thomson, Hilda McKnight, and Ann Trevor. The club members canvassed the town for gifts of books and magazines. The library was opened with about one thousand books on the shelves.

From then on we have held food sales and Tag Day benefits to increase the financial status of our library. In 1953, a baseball game sponsored by the club made \$127.80 for us.

The first Library Board members were Ethel Christiansen, Hilda McKnight, Ruth Siddons, and Mrs. Mathias. Jessie Cool was the first secretary; Marie Siebold the second. The present members of the Library Board are Caroline Maggrett, Ethel Christiansen, Amber Heymeyer, Sally Vanderboom, and Gertrude Vanderwerp. Caroline Maggrett has been a member of the board for 19 years, Ethel Christiansen for 14 years, and Ella Nash for 8 years.

At the present time we are financed by the Woman's Club, which donated \$322.12 during the past year, the Commercial Club donated \$50 annually, and the city of Platte pays our rent, the librarians salary, and \$40 worth of books annually.

Our first library rooms were located in the City Building above the Council Rooms. During 1960 we were given space in the new Community Building. The city moved the books using a Farm-Hand extension at an upper window.

In 1961 we are reorganizing and cataloging our books under the supervision of Mrs. Lillian Dennis, chairman of S.D.L. A., assisted by Miss Darla Hicks, librarian at Scotland High School. Members of the club have given their assistance generously.

PRESHO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Presho, South Dakota

Mrs. Verne Frasier, Librarian

More than forty years ago when Presho was still a very new town, a group of women with a few donated books, a little money solicited from townspeople, and a room located in the front part of the Hi-Way Garage, volunteered to serve as librarians for the first Presho Public Library.

Later, the City Council appropriated money to pay a librarian's salary and offered its Council Room to be used as a library. Still later, on December 31, 1923,

the first Library Board was organized and elected Mrs. E. Sedgwick, president; Miss Anna Jost, vice-president; Mrs. N. J. Thomson, treasurer, and Miss Mary Sweeney, secretary-librarian. Other board members were Judge F. C. Wedrath and C. K. Knutson.

The Presho Woman's Club made yearly contributions to the library for the purchase of new books until recent years when the club was disbanded. Now extension clubs make occasional donations and "Tag Days" are scheduled to raise money for books.

The library moved with the City Council to a building on Main Street and it was here that volunteer workers, under the supervision of a representative from the State Library, catalogued the entire collection.

In 1960, when the city fathers built new quarters for their meetings next to the local fire station, they provided a separate room for the library. New book shelves fill this room, and the adjoining Council Room must serve as a reading room. The library is open on Tuesday evening and Thursday and Saturday afternoon.

Today, serving on the Library Board are Mrs. H. N. Thomson, president; Charlotte Ford, vice-president; Mrs. J. D. Coble, treasurer; Mrs. Vern Frasier, secretary-librarian; Mrs. J. Leitchnam, Mrs. Paul Olson, Anna Jost and Mrs. M. Sather.

After Mary Sweeney, the first librarian, Mrs. Charles Hubbard, Mrs. Eva Halgrimson Allison, Mrs. Robert Peyton, Mrs. Myrtle Mahaney, and currently Mrs. Verne Frasier have served in that capacity.

In June of 1960, Mr. Harold Chapman, a former resident of Presho, established, in memory of his mother, a new children's section of the library to be known as the **Jessie A. Chapman Memorial Library**. The original gift of one hundred children's books, selected by a local committee, will be added to, each successive year.

Today, the library has 1,346 adult and children's books and serves the town and surrounding rural area.

Mrs. J. Leitchnam serves capably as the publicity chairman, writing reviews of

the new books for the local newspaper. A renewed interest is being shown by the community in our library facilities.

In August, two Field Librarians from the South Dakota Library Commission spent part of a week weeding, cataloging, and sending books needing repair to a bindery. Mrs. Frasier and others helped. Mary Frasier, who has had Library Training at Black Hills Teachers College, made the card catalog and shelf list. (Mary plans library work for her career.)

RAPID CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Rapid City, South Dakota
Helen Hoyt, Head Librarian

Books have always been an important part of the culture of a community. This fact is evident in a newspaper story taken from the *Annals of Early Rapid City*, February 22, 1879. "We understand a movement is on foot in Rapid City . . . The ladies, we understand, are willing to inaugurate a series of entertainments to realize enough to purchase a full set of encyclopedia works-which alone would be a good foundation for a public library. Let us, by all means, have a public library."

Two years later plans were underway for the construction of a building. Six citizens offered building sites. The one accepted reads as follows: "John R. Brennan, 50 feet off from the front of 5 lots on and near the northwest corner of the 6th and Kansas City streets, 50 by 125 feet." The contract was forfeited in March and it was April before actual construction on Library Hall was begun. The flag was raised from the roof in May. The first book order was sent in December, 1882, to Jensen, McClurg, and Company, Chicago. This first library was dependent on voluntary financial support.

Library records show little activity in the next few years. In the early 1900's the Current Events Club of Rapid City initiated the effort for the establishment of a Free Public Library in Rapid City which would be city-tax supported. A committee of three women was appointed to visit the City Council and ask that the question of a tax be submitted to the voters of Rapid City. At the April 21,

1903 city election, the question was submitted and carried by a majority of 33 votes. The City Council levied a tax and the school board appointed a library committee as required under the law. The committee decided to wait until a year's tax' had accumulated before the opening of the library room. Library Hall was no longer used as a library.

A room downtown was eventually located, various donations of books accepted, and a librarian appointed. The opening date was August 3, 1904.

Eleven years later the library had 3,136 volumes, a circulation of 9,137 and 1,000 registered borrowers. Plans were being formulated for the construction of a new Andrew Carnegie Library Building. This new building was opened to the public February 24, 1916. This building is still in use. During the 30's, wings were added and a Children's Room built in the basement.

A collection of books is not enough. The people who bring three books and their readers together are another valuable part of the library picture. Rose Bower, Laura Van Nuys, Leora Lewis, and Marjorie Smith played important roles in the development of the Rapid City Public Library.

REDFIELD CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Redfield, South Dakota
Mrs. Sylvia Hansen, Librarian

The Redfield City Library started as a Round Robin Reading Club (12½ books) and each member bought a book and circulated it by rotation.

The city of Redfield applied for and was granted \$10,000 from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. The building was begun March 22, 1902. Shortly before the building was completed, the City Auditor used the northeast room for his office and was also the first Redfield Librarian.

The Redfield City Council used the basement for their meeting room.

During a period of years, the basement has been used as a Museum, Youth Center,

and in the past few years for a Boy Scout Council Room.

The Library has recently been redecorated on the main floor and the ambition of the Librarian and the Board of Trustee's is to have a Children's Library in the basement.

Librarians who have served since 1904 are:

Mr. Bickford, Auditor and Librarian 1904 to 1907

Mr. Patch, Auditor and Librarian 1907 to 1913

Miss Ruth E. Pool, Librarian 1913 to 1914

Miss Edna K. Engstrom, Librarian 1914 to 1915

Miss Mabel Parson, Acting Librarian 1915 to 1916

Miss Myrtle Francis, Librarian, 1916 to 1920.

Miss Elnora Francis, Librarian 1920 to 1921

Miss Peryl Donahey, Librarian 1921 to 1929

Mrs. Sylvia Hansen, Librarian 1929

SALEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Salem, South Dakota

Agnes M. Reddin, Librarian

This Dakota Centennial year brings out the project: Histories of South Dakota Libraries requested by the South Dakota Library Association President. All early data is lacking apparently. However, I have undertaken to write the history using available material.

Those of us who were here in the early 30's need not be reminded of those dark days of the dust storms and of the role the Government played in solving the problem by creating jobs for the unemployed through the Public Works Administration.

The Salem Library was commenced as a WPA project. Mrs. Alyce Flannery, the County Supervisor of Women's Work was necessarily instrumental in formulating the initial plans for the library. However, the real force behind the project was Miss Golda Mickler, a member of the Salem

Study Club. It was through her untiring efforts that the library got its start. She made a house-to-house canvass for book donations and took every book that was offered to her!

Dust-laden, long-forgotten books were dragged from their cobweb enclosures in the city's attics and most generously donated to the library causes.

When the canvass was completed and an appraisal made of the books collected, Miss Mickler realized that if her project had fallen short of the goal she had in view, it certainly had achieved a far-reaching accomplishment in another direction—it was the incentive the housewives needed in "ridding" their attics of unwanted books. In the books she had collected, Miss Mickler found out-dated algebra, geometry and history books, as well as fiction and non-fiction stories of the vintage of 1890 or 1900!

A less-determined person would have been overwhelmed with failure and quit, but not Golda Mickler. She set her problem at the door-step of the Salem Study Club.

Those women, many of them with children of their own—and the others imbued with a desire to see Salem progress, took the matter into consideration and decided that something must be done to remedy the situation.

The Club always served lunch at its meetings: from then on, the money collected from the lunches was used in buying new books. That custom continued for several years.

By word of mouth and newspaper advertising they brought the dire need for books to the attention of the public. Many well-meaning individuals were roused from their lethargy and came forward with their favorite books—adult and children's literature alike.

Interest in the library continued to grow, and to cope with the need of the increasing number of patrons, the Study Club contacted Miss Mercedes MacKay, Director of the Free Library Commission at Pierre. She readily agreed that our library should be placed on the list to

receive periodic shipments of books, known as the Traveling Library. That plan was initiated and worked out very well. It continues today.

Miss Mickler, librarian, handed in her resignation to the City Council at the regular meeting of the Council in May, 1943. At that same meeting Miss Agnes Reddin was appointed to succeed her. Her tenure commenced in June.

When Miss Reddin took over she found a small but well-organized set-up. The weather was hot, the children were clamoring for something new. Then Salem still lacked any recreational facilities, so she instituted a Story Hour program for the pre-school youngsters as well as those in the lower grades. The plan proved successful and it has been carried out almost every summer since.

When Miss Reddin began her work at the library in 1943, there were 450 books on the shelves. Today there are 1,471. The library is open 14 hours a week: the hours are from 2 o'clock to 5 o'clock on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and from 2:30 to 4:30 on Saturdays. It is not open on Thursdays.

Needless to say, persons living in the Salem trade-area are the main patrons. Many readers throughout the county also have taken advantage of it in the years that it has been here. The rural school teachers have found it useful in supplementing the reading material for their own schools.

During the years, many large donations have been given the library: a former resident gave approximately \$500 in books; several months ago, a school teacher, who was moving from Salem brought us \$100 worth of new books. The Study Club, still the sponsoring agent, has purchased several hundred dollars worth of books. From time to time it stages a money-raising enterprise for the benefit of the library.

Our library is what a lot of persons would term "just a collection of books" since it is not an authorized library. But we in Salem are proud of the spirit that our townspeople have shown in their donations and everyone is particularly grateful to the Study Club for the books they have made available to this library.

SCOTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Scotland, South Dakota
Violet Schlick, Librarian

The Scotland Public Library was organized under the leadership of Mrs. Dollard, whose husband was a lawyer here. They came to Scotland in the 1880's. The library was housed in various rooms, in private or public places, for many years. The books were donated by many in the community.

In 1917, it was reorganized and housed in a large room in the City Hall by a Woman's group, the Civic Club.

Mrs. Clara Miller was librarian for years without pay, from 1917 to 1958.

Now the library is supported by the City. We have a budget of \$1,200. This budget allowance includes for book purchases, supplies, Librarian's salary, and heat.

Our hours are Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings. We have good circulation, especially by youngsters and teenagers.

SELBY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Selby, South Dakota
Eva Swift, Librarian

The idea of providing proper books for Selby's reading dates backed to the early days of the Selby's Woman's Club. In 1916, the Traveling Library from Pierre was procured and circulated by the club. Later, it was decided to drop the Traveling Library project as the expense was *heavy* and the readers few.

The beginning of the present circulating library was the purchase of books by the Woman's Club from various sources, and donations. The Welton Furniture Store gave shelf space and circulation began.

From 1931 to 1932, the books were at Mrs. Gertrude Ketterlin.g's Store and at Mrs. Pearl Drown's studio. In 1935, the library was moved to a room in the city auditorium and was a WPA project until July 1, 1938. In 1938, a city library was organized.

Past members of the Library Board were: Mrs. E. H. Notebook , Mrs. Steve Johnson, Mrs. Ned Ingalls, Mrs. Jim Hopkins, Mrs. Lois Burns, Mr. Corshone, Mr. George Mickleson, and Allan George.

In 1955, the Library moved into a new building, which is owned by the city. Present Library Board members are Mrs. Ed. Zabel, President; Mrs. May Magers, Secretary; Mrs. George Schwarting, Treasurer; and Mrs. John Hoven and Mr. Fred Homey er.

We now have 10,000 books on our shelves which are available to all residents of the county and to surrounding counties. We buy about \$300 worth of books each year. Many books and magazines are donated.

We have Memorial shelves for Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Hoefs, Gertrude Ketterling, Mildren Hoffman, E. H. Noteboom, and Beulah Swift Schnaible. Memorial gifts such as tables, chairs, lamps, shelves, pictures, and an electric clock have been given to the library.

Mrs. Eva Swift is the present librarian, who has served for the past sixteen years. The Selby Public Library has a collection of books about South Dakota and by South Dakota authors.

SIoux FALLS CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Miss Catherine Schoenemann, Librarian

The Sioux Falls Public Library traces its development to the year 1875, when Mrs. Arteums Gale, wife of one of the original incorporators of the Dakota Land Co., noticed the youth and harmless men of the town had nowhere to go but to the hospitable-looking saloons. She interested several public-spirited citizens and with their help secured rooms over a store, and set about fixing an attractvie reading room. Books were purchased, newspapers and perodicals subscribed for, and the first library in the county was opened to readers. Mrs. Gale personally operated the room, keeping the hours of 9:00 to 10:00 p.m. for over a year. There was a small faction in town who, for reasons

of their own, were not in sympathy with the library and soon forced its closing.

A few years later Mrs. Gale built a home and re-established a reading room there, but lack of public interest soon caused her to abandon the project.

In 1879 a group of women began a Reading Circle, and in 1881 they re-organized as the Ladies History Club, with the idea of establishing a library. The sum of \$50.00 was carried over from the old Reading Circle, and to that they were able to add \$85.00 more, and so were able to purchase 100 books which formed the nucleus of the library. Rooms were secured and the village library was again in business.

A literary society, known as the Humbolt Club, was formed in 1884. Through the efforts of the two clubs the Sioux Falls Library Association was incorporated, receiving its charter from Dakota Territory in August 1886. It had a membership of 14, and the librarian received \$5.00 a month.

In 1890 J. M. Bailey, Junior, opened his private library to the public, and the books of the Sioux Falls Public Library were placed with his. The following year Mr. Bailey died and the books belonging to the library were not obtainable until 1892.

On New Year's Day, 1892, the books, then numbering 500, were removed to a room located on the sixth floor of the Edmison-Jameson block in the down town area on the same site where Mrs. Gale had opened her first reading room in 1875. Until that time the only funds available were membership fees, dues, and fines. Many home talent entertainments were staged to raise money for books. In 1887 they held a Dickens Carnival and netted \$125. In 1893 the cantata "The Rose Maiden" was given, but not one penny profit did they make. A lecture course in 1895 netted \$55.75. Just once was the treasury empty, and the matter was taken before the City Council who voted \$25.00 to the Library Association.

With much hard work the Library Association won the sympathy of the public and in 1889 the city voted a one-mill tax

for library purposes, and from that time it has been a free public library. The same year a building was given to the city to be used as a library, which it occupied until 1903. The building was the former All Souls Church; the upper rooms were used as the library, the auditorium for entertainments and lectures, and the basement housed a kindergarten.

June 1899 found a library board of five, appointed by the school board. John McClelland gave \$1,000 to the library, and the board immediately called in Miss Marcia Hoagland of Fort Wayne, Indiana. In four months she had completely organized the library and trained Miss Helen George as librarian. In 1900 Miss George attended the Iowa Library meeting, and ALA in 1901. In 1901 the library started buying books from McClurg in Chicago—a practice still followed. Miss George served as librarian until her marriage in 1907.

In 1903 a building, still in use today, was erected at the cost of \$36,000, with Andrew Carnegie giving the initial \$30,000. The library's 2,000 books were moved to the new site for \$17.65.

Nettie Curren Manchester joined the staff in 1903, and served as head librarian from 1907-1915. She was on the Library Board from 1916-1938, giving 35 years of service to the library.

Alberta Caillie started working at the library in 1906, and was Head Librarian from 1915-1943.

February 1912 the East Side Branch was opened with Hazel Schloss in charge. She received \$10.00 per month for keeping it open from 2:00-8:00 on Saturdays. The branch gave library service until 1935.

In August 1915 the first full itemized library budget was given to the city, with a total of \$7,500, including \$2,000 for books and \$3,000 for salaries.

November 1917 was a time of book burning, due to a smallpox epidemic. That year also the library collected 3,800 books from the community to send to the servicemen of World War I.

In 1930-Loraine Vilas joined the staff as Children's Librarian. In 1931 the G.A.R.

which had used the basement since 1907, was asked to vacate, and the area was remodeled into a Children's Department. The former children's room was turned into a Reference and Reading room.

Lora Crouch of Mitchell became Head Librarian in 1944. That year, for the first time, the City Commissioners raised the budget. 1945-Helen Neary became Children's Librarian and Catherine Schoenmann joined the staff as Reference Librarian. In 1946 library service was started at McKennan Hospital and at Sioux Valley hospital in 1947.

1951 the first bookmobile was purchased with fine money for \$7,300. Pauline Striemer of Fairmont, Minnesota, was hired as Bookmobile Librarian. 1954-the library remodeled a former grocery store and moved the Children's Department into larger surroundings. Also that year the vacated library basement was made into a Young People's Department with Catherine Schoenmann in charge. A second bookmobile was purchased in September of 1957, and a third in 1960. In June 1960 Miss Catherine Schoenmann replaced Miss Lora Crouch as head librarian, when the latter went to the Forest Library at Lake Placid Club in New York.

1960-the library had a circulation of 395,205. The budget for 1961 is \$166,852; the staff numbers 30.

-Justine Watson

Sources for this history: "Minnehaha County History" by Charles A. Smith; "History of Minnehaha County" by Dana R. Bailey; and notes for a talk given by Lora Crouch.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Sisseton, South Dakota

Mrs. Helen Arneson, Librarian

The pioneers who settled on the Sisseton-Wahpeton Indian Reservation were as ambitious and intelligent as any people that ever settled on any reservation or in any country. As soon as they had provided some shelter for themselves and their stock, they built schools and churches, and founded literary societies, both in the city and in rural districts. The

preamble of one Constitution, which we saw, stated the purpose in these words, "To broaden thinking and improve speaking." With this kind of people, it was natural that the topic of a public reading room was often considered, but no definite action was taken until the first part of February, 1906. Then Mrs. J. O. Andrews, president of the Zenith Club, asked the various churches of Sisseton to select a committee to meet in Mr. E. J. Turner's office February 20th to consider starting a Reading Room supported by private subscription. When these committees met they soon learned that a Reading Room was not a remote possibility but a near reality. Mrs. Andrews had, on the advice and approval of supporting organizations, appointed what was called, "The Controlling Board of the Sisseton Library Association," which was composed of the following members:

M. L. Sateren, President; J. Meyers, Vice-President; R. F. Sonstegard, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Minnie R. Matthews, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Ida M. Ingersoll; Mrs. J. P. Croal; Mrs. O. T. Axness; Mrs. A. J. Norby; Mrs. Gertrude Leffingwell; Mrs. Babb; Mrs. E. J. Turner; Miss Nora Freeman; Miss Mary Morris and Jesse Cottingham.

A Committee on literature had been appointed: Mr. Colby, Mr. Knapp, Mrs. Babcock, and Miss Todd. A committee composed of Mrs. Ingersoll, Mrs. Babb, Mrs. Turner, and M. L. Sateren was elected to select a suitable location. They reported at the next meeting that they had decided on the building located on the corner of First Avenue East and Oak Street. A committee to arrange for furniture fell to the lot of Mrs. Leffingwell, Miss Freeman, Miss Morris, and Mrs. Sonstegard. Miss Freeman was elected Treasurer and had charge of all collections. She was succeeded by Miss Margretha Marvick and later by Miss Alice Kennedy.

On April 18, 1906, less than two months after the organization meeting, the board met in the Reading Room. There were one hundred thirteen people making monthly payments for the support of the library. The board had held book donation reception on March 8, 1906, and this was about all the reading material available. It was decided that people living outside the city

limits could borrow books from the library by paying five cents a week for the use of a book. This was changed later to give rural patrons the same privileges as the local patrons. The members of the Zenith Club took turns supervising the reading room, but this did not prove advisable; so on April 18th at the board meeting it was decided to hire Mrs. Gertrude Leffingwell as librarian at a salary of \$14 per month. This salary was soon raised to \$15. After some time the library was moved to the basement of the Wilcox Building located on the west side of First Avenue East.

The first annual report of the secretary of the library board showed that from February 20th to December 30, 1906, the board met at fifteen regular meetings, and had written 51 warrants for a total of \$405.76. The Librarians Report for the same period showed:

Books taken out of the library ...	1178
Books from traveling library	102
Adults taking out books	1157
Children taking out books	1599
Visitors to the library	757
Books catalogued	415

-Mrs. Gertrude Leffingwell, Librarian

When the library became tax supported, the five members of the board were appointed by the Board of Education. The 1913 Legislature changed the law so that the Library Board would be appointed by the City Council. Those appointed were Mrs. E. J. Turner, Jesse Ray, and R. F. Sonstegard.

The library made steady progress. The supporters looked forward to the time when the city would have a Library Building. In the early part of 1915, R. F. Sonstegard applied to Andrew Carnegie, who was in Scotland at the time, for a donation to build a library in Sisseton. Soon he had an offer the Carnegie Foundation would give the amount of \$7,500 for the construction of a library in Sisseton. The money would be available as soon as the city provided ground for the building and guaranteed maintenance. The city provided Lots twenty-two and twenty-three in Block forty-three. The contract for construction was let to Carlson and Hasslen on September 1, 1915. The contract for heating was later

let to W. B. Cole. The Carnegie Library at Sisseton, South Dakota, was completed in March 1916, and opened to the public just ten years after the first Reading Room was started.

Soon after moving into the new Library, the Board realized that some day it would be necessary to build an addition to the building, so they bought Lot twenty-two adjoining the property to the north.

The Carnegie Library has not only provided housing for the library, the auditorium has been a gathering place for various organizations, both city and rural. It has been used by the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, as a school room and during World War II it was used by the Red Cross and Highway Department. In May of 1917, the Sisseton Library became a member of the South Dakota Library Association.

The following have served as president of the library board: Mr. M. L. Sateren, Mrs. John Barrington, and Mrs. Agnes Turner. Other members of the board who have served since it was reduced to five members were: Mrs. Howard Babcock, Mrs. Harvey Crosby, Mr. O. S. Opheim, Mr. Frank McKenna, and Mr. Jesse Ray. Librarians have been Mrs. Gertrude Lefingwell, Miss Adele McDonald, Mrs. Millie Rudie, Miss Gertrude Williams, Mrs. Williams, and Miss Pearl Robinson from 1936 to 1950. The present library board members are Mrs. Agnes Swanberg, President; Mr. R. F. Sonstegard, Secretary since 1906; Mrs. Shirley Cameron; Mr. Paul Rickert, and Mr. Raymond Weis. Mrs. Helen Arneson has been librarian since 1950. Mrs. Marie Johnson is the custodian. There are twenty-three hundred and fifty registered borrowers at present. Books in the library have Increased as follows:

1906-1907	415 volumes
1925	4564 volumes
1930	5243 volumes
1940	5823 volumes
1950	6648 volumes
1960	8862 volumes

The circulation in 1950 was 12,912 and In 1960 had increased to 19,061. There are forty-two magazine subscriptions with renewals for two or three years on each; one daily newspaper is taken as well as the local weekly newspaper.

In the spring of 1956, the Zenith Club, assisted by the Literary Guild, sponsored a tea honoring Mrs. E. J. (Agnes) Turner and Mr. R. F. Sonstegard for their long and faithful service. Mrs. Turner and Mr. Sonstegard were each awarded the Outstanding Trustee Award for 1956 by the South Dakota Library Association.

During 1960 it cost \$4,998.84 to operate the Sisseton Carnegie Library and of that amount \$548.14 was spent on improvement of the grounds. Plans are underway for further improvements whereby we may continue to serve a growing community in the very best manner possible.

GRACE BALLOCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Spearfish, South Dakota
Evelyn Hesseltine, Librarian

Mrs. Grace Balloch was a teacher in the Black Hills Teachers College from 1923 to the time of her death in 1944. When she died she willed her private library of nearly a thousand books to the City of Spearfish to start a public library.

Mrs. Balloch asked that a committee of three women be appointed as a temporary library committee, stating that one should be from each of three organizations to which she belonged. The A.A.U.W. chose Miss Frances Repass ; the Spearfish Women's Club, Mrs. Florence Bettelheim; and the P.E.O., Miss Millie Heidepriem.

The City Council first accepted the books, then refused them, and again accepted them and turned them over to the Library Committee mentioned above.

Mrs. Cutter, owner of the hotel offered free rent of a room in the hotel to the committee, and the books were moved to this room. Money contributions were made by friends to buy the necessary supplies and equipment for starting the library. Miss Repass, a librarian, took over the processing of the books, with volunteer helpers.

Meantime, petitions were circulated and signed asking the city to put the matter of a publicly-owned and supported library before the people in the regular city elec-

tion April 17, 1945. At this election, there were 232 votes for the establishment of a library and 94 against.

Following the election, the mayor appointed as trustees: Mrs. B. F. Bettelheim, Mrs. Sarah Ramsay, Mr. John Larson, Frances Repass, James Estes.

The board elected Miss Repass as chairman and decided that the name of the library should be the Grace Balloch Memorial Library. The city council voted to include \$1,000 for the support of the library for the year 1946.

The library was formally opened June 23, 1945. From that time it was kept open weekdays except Tuesdays from two to five o'clock, and on Tuesday evening. The librarians were volunteers, the money for supplies was contributed, as no tax money would be available until May, 1946.

When tax money became available, Evelyn Hesseltine became the regular librarian beginning June 1, 1946, and has been the librarian since that time. She has had no library training except instructions by Miss Repass.

The library has been housed in the same hotel room since its beginning. Mrs. Cutter, owner of the hotel, gave the room rent-free, and Mr. O. A. Kelly has charged only a nominal sum for the use of the room.

After the first two years the library was opened from two to five o'clock every afternoon except Sunday, and no evenings.

The present board of trustees consists of Frances Repass, Mrs. John Stannus, Mrs. Kent Whittemore, George C. Coates, and Clifford T. Bobier. Of the present board, Miss Repass is the only one who has been a trustee since the library started. Because she is a librarian, she has been a very valuable member of the board.

The number of books recorded on the report June 30, 1960, was 4,689, and the circulation for the year ending on that date was 12,341. The highest circulation for any year was 13,994.

Mrs. Balloch owned a house and lot in Spearfish which she willed to her sister, Miss Anna Herr Frantz of York, Penn-

sylvania. When Miss Frantz died in 1959 she left this property to the Grace Balloch Memorial Library. The house is not suitable for a library and could not be readily remodelled. But the site is excellent, and the Spearfish City Council has begun to consider the erection of a library building on this lot.

STURGIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Sturgis, South Dakota
Mrs. Mabel Butler, Librarian

Sturgis, South Dakota came into existence in 1878 with a few houses on the trail from Pierre to Deadwood, by way of Rapid City. It gained little prominence until 1878 when Fort Meade, first known as Camp Sturgis, was completed a mile or so east of the settlement, and the town grew up beside it and under its protection.

In 1893 a group of thirty-five women formed a Sturgis Woman's Literary Club which met once a week for serious study and discussion. This Literary Club has been closely connected with the library from the time of the first library establishment. It was in 1922 that a Mrs. Annie McClymonds of New Jersey gave a nucleus of one thousand well-chosen books to the city of Sturgis.

Mr. Harry Atwater, then Mayor of Sturgis, asked the Sturgis Woman's Literary Club to sponsor the Public Library. The records of the Club show that on October 25th, 1922, the club accepted the responsibility of installing and establishing the Public Library. Mrs. Nellie Bradley was made librarian.

The first problem was to find a suitable and fireproof room. The only suitable space was in the Public School. Here, upstairs in a small inner room, the library had its first home. The members helped to catalogue and install the books. Out of the membership of the Club, a library board was appointed whose duty it was to raise \$100 annually for the nurture of the library. From the year 1922 to the present year, 1961, some members of the Club have served as members of the Library Board.

The library was moved from the Sturgis Public School in May, 1944, when the school announced that no longer did they have room to house the books for the city. High school boys moved the books to the City Auditorium to a small room, 15' x 15'. The books were packed to the ceiling and on tables and shelves. It was most inadequate.

Many efforts were made in the next few years to improve the housing of the library, but always the lack of city funds discouraged any move or bond issue. The South Dakota code of 1939 Chapter 45.31 did much to improve the condition of library funds. That code gave legal existence to the City Library and provided funds from the city with which to operate it. Mrs. Harry Atwater served as librarian.

In 1953 the Library Trustees decided action needed to be taken. They invited friends of the library to inspect the present library. Following this publicity program a number of editorials and letters were written in the papers. After laying the ground work for the move, the Library Trustees asked the City Council to consider a bond *issue* for the new building.

This was the incentive required to spur the Woman's Literary Club to action. Question and answer sheets which were distributed throughout the town told of the great need in the community for more room. Pictures were taken of the crowded conditions. Members of the Club spoke to Civic and church organizations. Radios were put to use. Jaycees donated handbills *which* were distributed by the Boy Scouts throughout the city. Election day came. The bond issue was defeated by 66 votes. There was great disappointment to those who had worked so hard for the improvement.

The spring of 1954; a building *which* had been used for a tin shop was *up* for sale. It was in an ideal location for a library building. Mrs. Allen A. Lushbough, a member, spoke to the trustees and told them of the possibilities of the building. She took it upon herself to take an option for the building. Afterwards she approached several people whom she thought had the means, to purchase the building. None were interested. However, her husband came to her rescue, bought the building and made

a contract with the City Council to rent it as a library building for \$100 per month.

In January, 1955, the Sturgis Public Library opened at its present location. The Woman's Literary Club sponsored an open house which was attended by several hundred patrons. An adequate building had been provided, and a great deal of interest was shown.

Circulation increased; more books were added; and the library became a real asset to Sturgis. In February 27, 1958, the Trustees approached the City Commission to ask their approval to buy the building. By this time the Library had a building fund, and using Library laws, South Dakota Code of 1939, 45.0201-1, the City Council passed a resolution authorizing the mayor and city auditor to sign a contract to purchase the building.

Many organizations and individuals helped to make this a reality. Jaycees, Jayceettes, P.E.O., Woman's Literary Club, Lion's Club, Rotary Club, Extension Clubs, and numerous other groups helped with furnishings, moving, painting, etc.

This year has seen growth in circulation and numbers of books. Early records show months when about 300 books were checked out for the patrons. March, 1961, showed a circulation report of 2,203 volumes. New hours for the library this year include two evening hours from 7 to 9 p.m. The well-lighted, spacious room is used for research, study and enjoyment. It has been a hard climb, but through our State Librarian's help and the help of many individuals we feel that a great deal has been achieved.

The present Board of Trustees include: Mrs. Kate Soldat, Chairman; Mrs. Lester Hill, Vice-Chairman; Mr. L. C. Donaldson, Treasurer; Mrs. L. S. Adamski; and Mrs. A. A. Lushbough. The present librarian is Mrs. Mabel Butler. She is assisted by Mrs. Dale Davis.

TYNDALL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tyndall, South Dakota
Mrs. Helen Murphy, Librarian

The Tyndall Public Library was started in the minds of the members of the Tyndall Improvement Association on April 17, 1913.

This club was originally a sewing circle, which adopted the name of the above mentioned Association on this day, when the membership was opened to all women of the community interested in civic projects-especially a library.

The first activity was the renting and maintaining of a public rest room for the convenience of the rural women and children, and also to be the home of the original library. Books and periodicals were donated by members and other friends of the project. The room was open every afternoon with one of the members acting as hostess.

This room became so popular that larger and more complete quarters were rented. Book cases were purchased and the library was open to the public Wednesdays and Saturdays, with Mrs. Lydia Youngworth, Mrs. J. C. Miner and Mrs. F. M. Scoblic as librarians. The Improvement Association had many money-making projects for the purchase of books and magazines, and several other organizations also showed interest. It was decided to try to get a Carnegie Library.

In 1915, the Mayor, William Thompson, appointed a Board of five members to work on this project, namely, Mrs. Lydia Youngworth, Mrs. J. C. Minier, Mr. F. A. Morgan, W. W. French, and Dr. J. L. Barbier. This board worked on the question of finances, and had much correspondence with the Carnegie Foundation as to the size of the library Tyndall could support. A \$5,000 library was the one usually given to a town the size of Tyndall, but the Board was able to show that the town could take care of the operating of a larger library, and voted bonds in the amount of \$2,500 and the Carnegie Foundation gave the necessary \$7,500 so that Tyndall could build a \$10,000 building.

On January 3, 1916, the City Council of the City of Tyndall, passed a resolution binding the city to support a Free Public Library at a cost of not less than \$1,000 per year. February 6, 1917, the contract for construction was let to the Goetz Construction Co. of Yankton. An outstanding dedication was planned and carried out November 9, 1917. During the first weeks of the new library Mrs. F. M. Scoblic was

the volunteer librarian, and on November 14, Miss Elizabeth Barber was hired as librarian; her work was to begin on December 1, 1917. At this time the Improvement Association turned over 911 books to the Tyndall Public Library. The library was accessioned and catalogued, and a shelf list was made.

The number of volumes has grown to 11,000 books in 1961, with 451 readers registered, and 9,464 books loaned in 1960. The library is open four afternoons and three evenings a week. A memorial book shelf established several years ago now has many books placed there in memory of Tyndall citizens.

Miss Barber served as librarian from 1917 until ill health caused her to resign in 1939. She passed away June 20, 1945. She was a most loved and admired person. Mrs. Maud Barber became librarian on August 1, 1939, after seven weeks as an apprentice under the able tutoring of Miss Barber. In June 1940, Mrs. Barber took a six-weeks training course in library science at the University of Wisconsin. She remained librarian 'until September, 1949; at this time she resigned because of her health condition. Mrs. John Lee was then hired as librarian and served until her death in 1952, as the result of an automobile accident. Mrs. Basil Murphy became librarian on August 1, 1952, after working in the library under the direction of Mrs. Maud Barber. Mrs. Murphy is the present librarian in 1961. The Tyndall Library has been very fortunate in having four fine librarians in the forty-two years of its existence.

Mr. F. A. Morgan served on the board from 1915 to the time of his death in 1925, followed by Mr. Franklin Bussey, who served until 1934. Mr. W. W. French left the city in 1916, and was succeeded by Dr. H. Klima, who was a Board Member for three years at this time, and again in 1938-48. Dr. Barber served from 1915 until 1931, and Mr. Leon Serr filled the vacancy; he served until the time of his death in 1957. Mrs. Youngworth was on the board from 1915 until 1918, and was followed by Mrs. F. M. Scoblic, who is a member of the present board. Mrs. Minier was a member from 1915 until 1925. Others who have been board members through the

years are: Mr. Henry Halla, Mrs. Lillis Cooper, Mr. Murray Colburn, Mrs. Charles Sturtevant, Mrs. John Lee, Mr. Louis Eads, Mr. Hayes Stilwill, and Dr. Glenn Duncan.

The present board members are: Mrs. Axel Johnson, president; Mrs. F. M. Scoblic, vice-president; George Pravecek, City Council member; Maynard Serr and Royal Koch.

VERMILLION PUBLIC LIBRARY

Vermillion, South Dakota
Miss Ruth Yusten, Librarian

The Vermillion Public Library had its beginning in 1900 when a group of women successfully petitioned the City Council to appropriate funds for the purchase of a Library site and books. The records show that a site was purchased at the cost of \$1,100, and following that, the Carnegie Library Fund made available \$10,000 to be used for the construction of the Library. Since those early days the Vermillion City Council has appropriated the necessary funds to operate the Library.

As is the case of all service organizations of the city, the Council administers the affairs of the Library with much of the supervisory power delegated to a Library Board of five citizens appointed by the Mayor. The Library Board directs the upkeep of the building and grounds and, with the Librarian, purchases books and other needed supplies. Last year 26,068 books were circulated. The number of volumes in the catalogued system of the Library has risen from 9,158 in 1934 to 24,880 in 1961.

Mrs. Howard Yusten is the present librarian and her duties include keeping the records of the fines and duties concerned with purchasing orders, cataloguing, and reference, reader's guidance and many others. She succeeds Mrs. Mildred Grange Foster who was the librarian for 12 years. Mrs. Alice Clemens, a former public school teacher, and a member of the Library Board for 19 years, is the assistant librarian.

The present Library Board members are Stanley Munger, President; Mrs. W.

H. Fairbanks, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Phil Anderson, Mrs. Henry Cobb, and Dr. Sherwood Cummings.

Other residents who have served on the Board since its organization in 1910: Mable K. Richardson, Director Emeritus of the State University of South Dakota Libraries, M. J. Chaney, E. M. Hart, Mrs. C. H. Barret, Mrs. R. D. Thompson, George K. Brosius, Mrs. Rinnie Burkland, Dr. H. S. Schell, F. C. Payton, Sarah Lyons, and Don Rasmussen.

VOLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volin, South Dakota
Mrs. E. O. Lien, Librarian

During the club year 1929-1939, the members of the U. C. S. Club in Volin, began to discuss seriously the possibility of starting a library in the town. In March they voted to try to secure a Traveling Library from the South Dakota Library Commission in Pierre. Mrs. C. A. Shepherdson was appointed to secure the necessary signatures of freeholders and Mrs. Albion Wright and Mrs. A. Hart were chosen for the library committee. The collection of books arrived and this Traveling Library found shelf room at the drug store through the cooperative interest of Mr. Gilbery Jeglum. Members of the club took turns in checking out the books on Library Day. Soon a room in the closed Volin State Bank was secured. Book shelves were constructed by Henry Hillery, others were donated by interested persons, other equipment was acquired before the new Traveling Library collection arrived from Pierre.

With these books from Pierre, the Volin Public Library was officially opened on March 17, 1934. Donations were solicited for books from local people and soon the shelves were well-filled. Mrs. E. O. Lien was the chosen librarian with the library committee Mrs. C. A. Melgaard, Fern Peters and Evelyn Lien as a Library Board.

The Proverbial adage, "Find a way or make it" was true in this instance-the club sponsored the library with no capital, very little equipment and operated on the proverbial "shoe-string." But the library

was popular and soon many patrons from the town and surrounding community were regular customers. With cold weather someone donated a small old-fashioned stove. The librarians hauled in sacks of cobs, started the fire and tried to keep their fingers from freezing while handling the icy books. Club members continued to take turns attending the Library two afternoons and two evenings a week. New books were purchased whenever there was money available. Club members raised money by holding soup kitchens, waffle suppers, teas, benefits of various kinds, and in putting on free musicals for the community. The Town Board gave \$15 for each of these programs. Now the club sets aside a small sum of money each year for the library. For *many* years the librarian received no remuneration, but now is given a small salary.

Mrs. C. A. Melgaard served on the Library Board from 1929 to 1952. Then she retired. Her services and encouragement is to her credit in keeping the library going, especially during the early years.

The Library was moved to larger quarters in the bank building because the Volin office of the Security State Bank was opened in 1948. These rooms had been remodeled and Martin Slomp built new book shelves and the arrangements were much improved. The floor was covered with inlaid linoleum in 1953. This was a project of our club.

Mrs. E. O. Lien retired in 1955 and Mrs. Fred Wilcox was appointed librarian. The Library provides many hours of pleasure and worthwhile reading for all, especially the school children. The Summer Reading Projects are always very popular.

WAGNER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wagner, South Dakota
Miss Thelma Swartz, Librarian

Wagner's first Library Board was appointed by Mayor Schneider in 1914, and was composed of Mrs. W. I. McFarland, Mrs. F. J. Rubertus, and Mrs. Nettie Dunham. In April 1914 at the city election, it was decided to accept the offer of Andrew Carnegie to spend \$5,000 on a library building, with the city agreeing to

spend \$500 per year for upkeep, and also to furnish the building site. The money for this building site (\$1,500) was raised by popular subscription and in 1915 the Library was dedicated by the State Librarian.

During the early years, the Library was furnished with donated tables and chairs, as well as many books and periodicals. By 1923 the number of volumes in the Library was 1745, with 480 borrowers registered. The total budget for the year was \$500. Mrs. Lucy Patton served as librarian at a salary of \$300 per year. At the end of 1933 there were 4,289 volumes listed and the budget remained at \$500. Ten years later in 1943 there were 5,782 volumes in the library and the budget had been increased to \$600.

In 1934 Mrs. Nettie Dunham resigned as secretary of the Library Board, (the position, she had held for 22 years). Mrs. W. H. Frei was elected to succeed her. In January 1944, W. J. Wolfe, who had been a member of the Board for 25 years, died, and the vacancy was filled by Leslie Grim. Frank Kalda joined the Board in 1947 and H. P. Stedronsky in 1949.

Mrs. Patton, who had been librarian since the founding of the library, resigned in July 1948. In January 1950, Mrs. Rubertus, a charter member of the Board, died. The position of president was filled by Mrs. Frei and Mrs. Ray Mazourek took the office of secretary.

Present members of the Wagner Library Board are: Mrs. R. J. Davies, President; Mrs. Bruce Brookman, Secretary; Mrs. Russell Cunoanson, Phil Masur, and William Evers, Jr. Our librarian has been serving since 1950. In addition to her regular duties, she conducts a Summer Reading Program and Story Hour for the children of the area.

The Wagner Library is in the process of being repaired. To date the bricks have been repaired, the tile roof repaired, new book shelves have been added, a new acoustic tile ceiling and new fluorescent lights have been installed. There is also a new reading table and chairs for the use of the children.

The books in the Library have been catalogued and a card catalog set up. All

worn books have been withdrawn for rebinds unless beyond repair, also the duplicate books. There are 4,829 volumes registered, with 486 borrowers regularly increasing their use for a larger circulation record. We carry a full line of popular magazines for all to read.

Local clubs and organizations have been encouraged to hold meetings at the Library, and at such times to browse in the book and magazine sections. In turn we ask them to make suggestions for improved library service. For this Centennial Year we have books by South Dakota authors on display as well as by authors elsewhere who delight us with their books on South Dakota with all its "infinite" varieties."

-Mrs. R. J. Davies, President of the Library Board, Wagner, South Dakota

WAKONDA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wakonda, South Dakota

Mrs. Lewis Larsen, Librarian

The nucleus for the Wakonda Public Library was first conceived in the minds of several ladies of a study group called the Monday Club. They were casting about for a worthwhile project for the town that would be within the ability of the club to handle. Many projects were discussed, and after much consideration the library project was chosen. This was in 1928. Members of the Monday Club were asked to contribute from their own libraries and the first books were taken to club meetings and circulated from there.

The first place that housed the library was the back room of the Wright Millinery Store. Later the CuHeLo and Butterfly Clubs of the town became interested in the project and they became co-sponsors.

In March of 1933 the library occupied the Security State Bank building for a few months before the establishment of that bank.

In 1934, with the aid of the Town Board and W.P.A., a room was furnished in the back room of the former Bank of Wakonda building, which is now occupied by the Wakonda Funeral Home, and it was in this year that a charge of 50c per family per year was started.

During 1935-36, as a PWA project, the town built the present Town Hall, and a room was provided for the library; but by 1945 that space became inadequate and two rooms were provided by the town in the building next to the Town Hall. The library had been housed there continuously until March, 1961, when the library was moved back again to the former Security State Bank building. This building was purchased by the Town of Wakonda especially to house the library and one room to be used for the Town Council. Circulation of books has increased since this move and new registrations have been noted. The library has been free to the public since 1957.

For the 33 years the library has served this community and has had a steady growth there are now over 5,000 volumes. This growth could only be a reality through cooperation-the town of Wakonda furnishes the building, heat, light, and salary of the librarian. The clubs still give generous yearly support, Clay County gives an annual appropriation, and with Memorials and book-fines the library will continue to grow.

Members of the Library Board include Mrs. Art Mikkelsen, chairman; Mrs. Kenneth Hatch, secretary; Miss Maurice Hover, treasurer; Mrs. Mary Montgomery and Mrs. Robert Hood. Mrs. Lewis Larsen is librarian.

CARNEGIE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Watertown, South Dakota

Mrs. Mavis W. Collins, Librarian

In 1900, two women's clubs of Watertown, namely the **Progressive Study Club** and **The Women's Club** agreed that their city should and would have a public library. They held a "book reception" at which more than 500 books were donated to the cause. With these books, very little money, two rooms over the City Hall, and a great deal of enthusiasm, the Watertown Library had its beginning. Idealism is one thing and practicality is another; the young library had to have money. A stock company was formed; shares were sold to stockholders at \$1.00 each; and many Wa-

tertown citizens invested in their city's future. However, Watertown people liked to read; and by 1903 they had bigger things in mind for the library. It was decided to petition the Andrew Carnegie Foundation for funds for a new building. "The money was duly received and a proud new building of Georgian (say the records) architecture was erected on the corner of Maple Street and First Avenue, SE." Early in 1906, the books and equipment were moved in. In the library files rests a picture post-card of the new building, that to all outward appearances could as well have been taken yesterday, so alike is that newly-furnished building and its sixty-year-old self, which stands on that corner today.

But, if that is true of the outside, just the opposite is true of the library's interior and the service it renders. In 1906, we see it as a leisurely sort of place where the chief duty of the librarian is to pass books over the desk and pass the time of day with her customers. Most of the books on the shelves are light fiction of the Grace Livingston Hill type, for most of the readers are ladies. We even suspect she often hands books to the borrowers without bothering to make a record of where they are going or when, for books are few and so are the borrowers ... and it is surprising how much a librarian can remember as to who is reading what.

Now sixty years later the picture has changed. The same old building stands; but it is literally buzzing. Instead of 500 light fiction books, it houses within its bulging walls more than 45,000 volumes of meticulously-selected, serious books in all categories. Instead of five books being lent to borrowers, as was true of the library's first day of circulation, more than 1,000 are apt to go out in a single day ... and 1,000 return by the same way. Instead of leisurely, haphazard borrowing, an automatic charging machine clicks away at a great rate, getting one pile of books out of the way for the next. The setting is not the dim, shadowy interior of 1900, with a parasol-toting lady visiting at the desk. Instead, a blaze of fluorescent lights light the reading rooms and every stack. Nearly every chair at every table is filled with busy, serious men, women, and stu-

dents. The library is no longer a "toy" for the leisure class. It is a center of activity and of serious learning. All its purchases, reforms and accommodations are activated with that fact in mind. It has joined the ranks of big business—even though not in the sense of profit-making. The 1907 budget of \$1,500 has grown through the efforts of dedicated librarians and understanding City Councilmen to an annual budget of \$45,000. From a staff of one librarian has come a group of twelve workers. There are various reasons for these drastic increases over sixty years. The city, of course, has grown from 3,000 to near 13,000. The library now enrolls twice as many active borrowers as lived in the whole city when the building was built. Interest in knowledge has grown immensely. Schools are a hundred times more demanding than they were in 1906. Research is the rule and not the exception in class work. Then, too, knowledge itself has increased by doubling and tripling and redoubling in these sixty years. It has become a tremendous thing; and the first and serious challenge of every library is to TRY to keep abreast of the times.

Physical changes, too, have taken place inside the Carnegie building. The first major change was the addition of a mezzanine floor to add to the shelving space. Through the years, the wood floors were covered with linoleum; stacks and shelves were squeezed into every conceivable space; the charging area was moved and modernized; a South Dakota and Teen-Age section were added. The Children's Department was separated and established in the basement, and later enlarged.

Personnel-wise, a long line of dedicated librarians have guided the library in policy and practice, selected the books, placed them on the shelves, and administrated the business. Mrs. Harriet Tuthill was the first of these, and the first Board of Trustees included the following people: Mr. J. J. Chrichton, then Mayor of the city, Agnes M. Schaefer, Addie E. Addison, Miriam S. Brown, D. T. Walker, H. M. Finnerud, and W. R. Thomas.

Honors have come to the library personnel from time to time. Mr. Omar Bacon, librarian in the early fifties, served two terms as president of the Mountain-Plains

Library Association; Mrs. Hazel C. Atwood, Librarian in the late fifties, was elected to be secretary of the South Dakota Library Association just before she resigned her post at Watertown. Mr. Joseph E. Messner, present member-in-longest-standing of the Board of Trustees, was named in 1959 by the South Dakota Library Association as the Trustee of the Year. One librarian, Ruth Longdon, is honored in memory by having an annual scholarship named for her. This is the Ruth Longdon Washburn Scholarship awarded each spring to a graduating senior who is interested in library work and has done outstanding work already in the field. Mr. Charles Harmon, long a member of the Board of Trustees, is also honored in memory by dedication of the mezzanine section to him.

Sixty eventful years have resulted in a fine library in Watertown. But a library is never through growing. At the present time the Board of Trustees and all personnel are concerned with securing funds for a new building sufficiently large to take care of expanding holdings and circulation. It is the hope of all that the citizenry of Watertown will rally as they did in 1900 and enable the library to grow with the times and the town.

WAUBAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Waubay, South Dakota
Mrs. Pearl Miller, Librarian

The Waubay Public Library was organized by the Mother's Club of Waubay, South Dakota. It opened its doors on February 12, 1924. The first librarian was Mrs. Dora Scott. The trustees were Mesdames Agnes Popp, Adelaide Strain, and Dora Scott. Through the earlier years, the library was maintained by Tag Days, bake sales, movies and silver teas, etc.

Books were donated by many individual people. The Tuesday Club of Waubay gave books and for several years the Wauby Birthday Club has ordered and donated books.

Our original library housing became too "cramped" after a few years so we are now located in the Municipal Building.

The Town Board has always helped in many ways and now they have assumed the financial burden entirely.

The library is greatly appreciated by its many borrowers-youth and adult. It is open two afternoons a week. Many of our youth are there before the doors are opened, allowing us to believe that while television is an entertainer, there is yet a fine reading public. About 100 books are checked out on each of these afternoons chosen from the 3,000 books on the shelves.

Mrs. Pearl Miller is the librarian. The present trustees are Mrs. Irene Engelhart, Mrs. Mary Hovland, Mrs. Nellie Jones, Mrs. Helen Mogen, and Mr. Crescent Hill.

WESSINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wessington, South Dakota
Mrs. Ethel M. Young, Librarian

The Public Library facilities have been available to the Wessington residents and the local school for nearly a quarter of a century. It was established in 1937 through the efforts of Mrs. E. F. Wheelock and Mrs. M. L. Sparks who presented the plan to the Women's Study Club for starting a library in the community. Thus the Study Club became the sponsor.

The library was first located in a small back room of a hardware store and the proprietor donated rent, lights, and heat. The shelves were planks supported by bricks which sometimes toppled over spilling books everywhere. As *this room* became too small for all the books, the Library was moved to the house of Mrs. Sparks, librarian at that time. Even *this* room proved inadequate, so that as soon as a room on Main Street became available, we moved again.

Community interest had grown -and Wessington people were glad to have a Library. Books continued to be donated and our space was getting less and less again. We were fortunate to find a larger place to rent on Main Street, a -first floor location, with two large east windows for purposes of attractive displays, sufficient shelf space, and a large back room for storing duplicate books and back copies of magazines. We were assisted with this

tremendous task of moving by the Boy Scouts of Wessington. They were wonderful help.

Mrs. C. M. Dake, Mrs. T. L. Clark, Mrs. E. F. Wheelock, Mrs. M. L. Sparks-librarian, and Mrs. E. T. Black were the first Library Board.

Besides our donated books and a librarian who gave free of her time, we regularly received a loan of a Traveling Library from the South Dakota Library Commission, which was returned regularly for an exchange of titles.

The library was first heated by a small coal stove. This disappeared when the American Legion gave us a fine oil heater which they no longer needed. This was a boon for the librarian who doubled as janitor-no more shoveling coal and emptying ashes for her.

Meet the present Library Board of Wessington: Mrs. C. W. Dake, Mrs. Ralph Clark, Mrs. S. N. Bottum, Mrs. Dow Smith, Mrs. Ella Lubner, assistant Librarian, and Mrs. Mabel Alarie who represents the Fortnightly Club. Their activity is visible if you notice the small table for the juvenile readers and how they are enjoying it. The children discovered the big map of Alaska hung at their level and they recognize it as our own 49th state. You may see some children enjoying our new Compton's Encyclopedia and the beautiful map of South Dakota. They are thrilled when they read Wessington printed on the map.

Our adults, too, are enjoying a change from the original donated secondhand furniture to a new oak-wood reading table with six sturdy chairs, a librarian's desk with ample drawer space, a card catalog cabinet and a pamphlet file.

The Library Board now buys books and subscribes for current magazines for the library. A fee of one dollar is asked for one year's library card. Books of recent copyright are placed on the rental shelf for awhile if they are of that type. A "give-away" shelf of duplicate magazines seems to be continually being emptied and re-supplied; in this way good magazines are getting into more homes.

WESSINGTON SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wessington Springs, South Dakota
Mrs. Gertrude Jackson, Librarian

The Wessington Springs Library was started with 500 volumes in 1918. Mrs. Clara Dunham, an avid reader, became librarian. In 1942, she retired after 24 years, at the age of 84. Even though she had no library training she was very efficient. She built up a good collection of adult books, but the juvenile collection needed more titles with variety.

The first Board about whom I could find anything were Judge Alden Cutler (deceased), Mrs. H. C. Whitney and Mrs. Charles Hatch; the other two names, I could not find. These three were on the Board when I became librarian in July 1942. I have served alone as librarian and janitor since coming into the library.

As soon as I took over, we asked the State Library Director to come to help us get the books classified as to fiction and non-fiction in both adult and juvenile collections.

We now have nearly 8,000 volumes in the library. Our City Council appropriates \$300 yearly for books. The one-third for juvenile, I purchase, the Board selects the Adult Books. A good many books are donated even now.

The library serves the whole county with no charge for anything for anybody. We take about twenty magazines. We have shelves to file these in the basement. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts meet in the basement.

The 1961 Board are: Harold Van Bockern, Chairman; Mr. Dale Powell, Mrs. Frank Jensen, Mrs. Pearl Newcomer and Mrs. H. B. Will.

The Contest: "Name Misty's Colt" was won by Carol and Cheryl Costello, little seven year old twin girls. At the Kiwanis Dinner, the \$1,000 check was presented to me as librarian on January 20, 1961 by Judge Charles Hatch; the girls and their parents were present.

We have the picture of the author, Mrs. Marguerite Henry, the mother Misty, and her colt; the girls in the library with Mr. Hatch presenting the check to me. All are framed and hanging in the library. The stamp here shown is in each book purchased with Contest Monday. My brother made shelves for the Contest Books so we have them altogether.

The children are good patrons, for it shows that 25 to 200 books a day are circulated three days a week. The library is open from 2 to 6 and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Our Library is made of brick. In it we have a picture of the first librarian, Mrs. Clara Dunham, hanging on the wall.

WILMOT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wilmot, South Dakota

Miss Evelyn Cameron, Librarian

During the First World War, the Red Cross in Wilmot and Community was a very active organization. Fund raising activities were held and the people gave their wholehearted response so that money flowed into the treasury by hundreds of dollars.

Most counties have only one Red Cross Chapter but due to the response given to the Red Cross Drives in the south end of Roberts County, the county was granted two chapters, with the second located in Wilmot. When the War ended and it was no longer necessary to knit socks and sweaters and the last of the bandages were rolled, the Executive Committee looked about to see how the local funds could be used and where they could be of the most use to the people, who, so willingly, had supported the Red Cross. It was finally agreed to turn the surplus funds over to the city of Wilmot for the purpose of purchasing a building to be used as a City Library and Recreation Room.

The city purchased what is now the Cummins buildings and which for years has served as the Cummins home and Mortuary. The Librarian lived in the living quarters and the room which in recent years has served as the Mortuary was

the Library and Recreation Room.

On December 18, 1920, the Library was opened for the first time, under the auspices of the Red Cross. The Grand Opening was held on the afternoon of January 22, 1921. While coffee and doughnuts were served to all visitors, Mr. Skarning, an accordion artist, furnished music for the occasion. In the evening following the opening, Mr. Skarning gave a benefit concert in the High School Auditorium at which \$74 was netted for the new Library. Donations of books and magazines were accepted. Gifts of furniture were received. People contributed reading matter, -and games for the entertainment of the young people, who soon found the library building -an ideal recreation center.

Books from the Traveling Library in the Library Commission in Pierre were used. A shipment of books also were received from the Division Headquarter of the Red Cross in Minneapolis. The ladies of the Qui Vive Club made many worthwhile contributions to the Library. Once they sponsored an exhibition of prints of great pictures. Mrs. George Nerison and Mm. George Jenks indexed the books according to the Dewey Decimal System.

Mrs. Wattie Sankey, who was the first librarian, resigned in September 1926 and Mrs. Nellie Westcott became Wilmot's second librarian.

Under Mrs. Westcott's supervision the Library continued to grow, regardless of the dust storms and depression years. In 1936 the city built a new Auditorium and provided a spacious room for the Library, and, in 1937, the books and equipment were moved to the new location. The trustees obtained the services of Miss Josephine Brainard of the Free Library Commission in Pierre, who assisted in weeding out the obsolete and poorer material; she classified the non-fiction and started the library on a Card Catalog system with author, title, and subject cards.

Because the school was so crowded in 1937 the larger part of the school library books were moved to the Public Library as the school needed classroom space. In 1953 these books were returned to the school in order to fill North Central's reg-

ulations. This left the Public Library extra and much needed shelf space.

Mrs. Westcott resigned her position in the fall of 1940 and Evelyn Cameron became Librarian. Since that time, a Summer Reading Club has become a part of the annual Library program. A Story Hour for pre-school children is held each week. This project has grown until it has become necessary for one and sometimes two of the Trustees to assist on "Story Hour Afternoon." When we were younger, three or four pre-school parties were given each year. We held them on special days. Now we have our large party for all pre-school children at Christmas with Santa Claus bringing treats for everyone. Eighty guests were entertained at the 1960 Christmas Party.

A Memorial shelf was instituted some years ago, and quite a number of worthwhile and outstanding books have been donated. In 1959 Dr. and Mrs. James McKenna of Milwaukee contributed the first volumes to the Elsie Lewis Collection of America, established as a tribute to his grandmother, Mrs. Elsie Lewis.

In the early days of the Library, the city contributed \$500 yearly for Library support. About 1950 this was increased to \$980 and when the 1961 budget was drawn up it was again increased-this time to \$1,250. There have been times when city contributions did not meet Library needs and at such times the Trustees have sponsored food sales. Funds raised in this way have been used for additional books and improvements. A card catalog file was purchased and in 1956, the tiling on the Library floor. Then a new desk and curtains were added and the city co-operated by painting the room. In 1959 much needed shelving and improved lighting was a project. Through the years every available corner has been utilized by making portable shelves of brightly painted tile and boards.

This Library, which in 1921, begged for donations of books, now has close to 4,000 books and subscribes to 20 magazines. We also have over 300 readers besides providing books for a number of rural schools. The room which was considered spacious in 1937 is now crowded to the

utmost and the Trustees ask "How can we store magazines and where can more shelving be added?"

Among the first trustees were: John Munro, Rev. Nerison, R. E. White, Mrs. S. C. Jones, Mrs. Andrew Minder and George Scott. Many others have served in forty years of existence. Present members of the Library Board are: Mrs. L. H. McKenna, Mrs. Edwin Raabe, Mrs. Frank Maack, Mrs. Arnold Jurgens and Mr. Gerald L. Heigel.

YANKTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Yankton, South Dakota
Eda Livingston, Librarian

A news item in the Yankton Dakotan, May 18, 1868 reads-"A territorial Library has been started in Yankton; M. Hoyt will take supervision." It does not say "where" the library was located or who would handle the work of lending books, etc., but from time to time, notices appear in the paper asking that overdue books be returned-said notices signed by "S. L. Spink, Sec."-so we assume that the Hon. S. L. Spink, one of Dakota's earliest legislators may have given space for the books in his law office.

Remnants of the early collection are treasured in our present library. Bound volumes of Harper's Magazine from 1850 through November, 1894, with pencilled names "J. Leeland," "M. Hoyt," and "East" on the various frontispieces show who had originally owned the books; then bound volumes of the New Englander Magazine from 1850 through 1872. These bear the name of "Rev. A. Clarke." The Rev. A. Clarke was an Episcopal Missionary among the Indians on the Rosebud Reservation for many years. Volumes of the Frank Leslie Sunday Magazine go back to 1877. Then there are forgotten magazines.

The Library was never dropped. From time to time, the paper records gifts of books, benefits given by the Ladles for the Library.

With the turn of the Century, Andrew Carnegie gave to Yankton, as to many cities in the country, money to build a library, upon agreement that the city pro-

vide the site, and put so much annually into the maintenance of the building. Mr. F. L. Van Tassel was principally responsible for securing this gift of \$12,500 for the city, and our present library was built in 1902-1903.

Wan. H. Edmunds, Joseph Pier and F. L. Van Tassel were named by the Mayor as the Board of Trustees for the Library, and they chose Mrs. Jessie Bartholomew as librarian for the ensuing year and Ed Dufreud as janitor.

On the evening of October 8, 1903, the Library was thrown open for inspection. A book shower resulted in receipt of 182 books in addition to 400-500 Government documents or reference books. Speeches were made by Hon. Bartlett Tripp and Senator R. J. Gamble with music by Mikada's Orchestra.

The Nineteenth Century Club gave money for the purchase of books. Judge Bartlett Tripp donated 500 volumes, mostly purchased directly for this gift to the library. The Union Library Association from 1906 to 1911 gave a series of lectures and programs, net proceeds of which helped toward the purchase of \$750 of new books. The donation of 1,000 volumes from the Dr. James Roane estate was an important gift these deluxe editions are still in good condition and much used. Pictures were acquired by gift and purchase, many from the collection of Mrs. G. H. Durand. Bound files of the **Press and Dakotan** newspaper from 1870, continuous for twenty years, were purchased from the early publisher, George W. Kingsbury, shortly before his death, and Library of Original Sources purchased from Mr. Arthur Westhorpe. This list of gifts and special acquisitions is undoubtedly not complete, but representative of the means by which the Yankton Library was promoted in the early years.

In 1919 Miss Leora Lewis, Librarian for the State Library Commission, reported that the Yankton Library was one of the best in the State, being well equipped, doing good work and one of the libraries best prepared to take up County work. A project was pushed during the next few years to make books available in all parts of the County, but no support was forth-

coming from the County Commissioners, so the library remained a city project. However much has been done through the years for Yankton County's rural residents.

The first South Dakota Library Institute and annual meeting of the South Dakota Library Association was held in Yankton, October 22, 1922.

In 1931 Mr. Muth built the circulation desk for the lobby at a cost of \$384.41. It has been a great help to patrons and library employees in checking books in and out.

In May, 1942, after nearly forty years as head librarian, Mrs. Bartholomew took charge of the History Department, a less exacting responsibility and a work for which she had a special talent. Miss Bernice Shannon was hired as the new head librarian and Miss Madeline Dunham as Children's Librarian. On August 27, 1943, Miss Shannon resigned to accept a position in a larger field and Miss Caroline Orvis was hired as head librarian. Mrs. Marguerite Burkhead began work as Children's Librarian in the fall of 1944.

In July 1950, a letter was received by the Library Board from the City Engineer who reported that the outside of the building was badly in need of repair. Mr. Edmunds, President of the Board, contacted the Mayor. As a result, the cupola was taken off the building and a new roof was put on as well as other repairs done.

Mrs. Bartholomew continued her work in the History Department until 1952. She had completed 50 years of service in the library. Though she often had to be absent due to failing health during the last year, she left in her splendid history scrap books a legacy which is invaluable.

In August, 1955, the Board asked Mr. Jensen, the new City Manager, to consider with them the tentative budget for 1956. Mr. Jensen thought that the Library should have a budget sufficient to include maintenance of the building rather than merely enough for running expense. The budget was increased and plans made in 1956 for needed repairs.

In April, 1957, Miss Orvis resigned. Mrs. Livingston then carried on the work in the

adult section and Mrs. Burkhead continued as Children's Librarian. Also in the spring of 1957 under the supervision of Mr. Jensen and the city engineer, new lighting was installed in the reading rooms and the stack room; additional book shelves were added; cork base flooring was laid in the reading rooms, plus painting and adding new window shades. These improvements added to the improved appearance of the library.

In November, 1957, the city employees removed one stairway from the balcony to the lobby. This gave added shelf space in the alcove off the lobby, shelf and floor space in the balcony, and new light to improve both lobby and balcony. Next, during the winter of 1957-58, the Children's Department was remodeled; -also the History and Work rooms in the basement. This was a big project much needed and its completion was appreciated.

A Kodagraph Reader was purchased by the Board and the work of having the newspaper files microfilmed was begun.

By Sunday, March 16, 1958, the Library was ready for its second "Open House." About 250 citizens inspected the building and were received by the Library Board, the City Officials and City Manager.

In 1960, the Board purchased four good window air conditioners, which add comfort for summer students and employees alike. The wood trim on the outside of the building was also painted in 1960.

The library now has about 45,000 volumes-1,029 were added in 1960. Children's books and adult fiction wear out like clothing and have to be replaced. Some non-fiction and reference books get outdated and the demand for new books of all kinds is always with us.

With some missing links, the Library has a complete file of the Press and Dakotan and its forebears from June 6, 1861, through 1938 that have been microfilmed, and beginning in September, 1958, all issues are microfilmed currently. Files for the twenty year period of 1939 to September, 1958, new well bound, will be filmed before long, bringing the project up to date. Files of Yankton's former weekly papers have also been microfilmed.

At December, 1960, meeting of the Board, it was decided that, "Should the rural people of Yankton County petition for a Federal Grant for a Bookmobile, the City Library Board will contract with them to serve as a central point of distribution for a fair sum."

Mr. Jensen, City Manager, recommended that in the 1961 and future budgets, a sum of \$5,000 or more be appropriated for the building and maintenance fund, so that when in the foreseeable future as Yankton grows and demands on the Library increase, as they now are, the Library Board will be more ready to enlarge the building and meet the demands.